.101
k
4365

GENEALOGY COLLECTION

GEN

ALLEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
3 1833 02402 6855

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2016

https://archive.org/details/twentiethcentury00kimm

TWENTIETH CENTURY HISTORY

OF

FINDLAY

AND

HANCOCK COUNTY

OHIO

AND REPRESENTATIVE CITIZENS

BY

J. A. KIMMELL, M. D.

"History is Philosophy Teaching by Example"

PUBLISHED BY
RICHMOND-ARNOLD PUBLISHING CO.
F. J. RICHMOND, PRES. C. R. ARNOLD, SEC'Y AND TREAS.
CHICAGO, ILL.
1910

PREFACE

1204365

The aim of the publishers of this volume and of the author of the history has been to secure for the historical portion thereof full and accurate data respecting the history of the county from the time of its early settlement, and to condense it into a clear and interesting narrative. All topics and occurrences have been included that were essential to this object.

We take pleasure here in acknowledging our indebtedness to the late D. B. Beardsley and to Mr. Jacob A. Spaythe, whose carefully prepared histories of Hancock County, published respectively in 1881 and 1903, have been found valuable for reference and other purposes in the compilation of the present work.

The reviews of resolute and strenuous lives that make up the biographical part of the volume are admirably calculated to foster local ties, to inculcate patriotism, and to emphasize the rewards of industry dominated by intelligent purpose. They constitute a most appropriate medium for perpetuating personal annals, and will be of incalculable value to the descendants of those commemorated. These sketches are replete with stirring incidents and intense experiences, and are flavored with a strong human interest that will naturally prove to a large portion of the readers of the book its most attractive feature. In the aggregate of personal memoirs thus collated will be found a vivid epitome of the growth of Hancock County, which will fitly supplement the historical statement, for its development is identified with that of the men and women to whom it is attributable. Sketches unrevised by subscribers are marked by a small asterisk (*) placed after the name of the subscriber.

The publishers have endeavored to avoid slighting any part of the work, and to fittingly supplement the editor's labors by exercising care over the minutest details of publication, and to give to the volume the three-fold value of a readable narrative, a useful work of reference and a tasteful ornament to the library. We believe the result has justified the care thus exercised.

Special prominence has been given to the portraits of representative citizens which appear throughout the volume and we believe that they will prove not its least interesting feature. We have sought in this department to illustrate the different spheres of industrial and professional achievement as conspicuously as possible. To all who have kindly interested themselves in the successful preparation of this work, and who have voluntarily contributed most useful information and data, or rendered other assistance, we hereby tender our grateful acknowledgments.

THE PUBLISHERS.

CHICAGO, ILL., October, 1910.

CONTENTS

CHAPTER I

Settlement of the Northwest Territory and Organization of the State of Ohio 19

Introductory—Derivation of Title and Early Explorations—Achievements of George Rogers Clark—State Cessions and Indian Treaties—Settlement—Indian Wars—St. Clair's Defeat—Wayne's Campaign and Battle of Fallen Timber—Organization of the Northwest Territory—Organization of the State of Ohio.

CHAPTER II

The Aborigines 41

Prehistoric Races—Pre-glacial Man—The Mound Builders—The Red Race.

CHAPTER III

First Organization of Hancock County 46

The County Organized—Findlay Township Organized—First Elections—First Officials—Erection of the Township.

CHAPTER IV

Independent Organization of the County 50

First White Settlers—Hull's March—Fort Findlay—Murder of the Thomases—A Pioneer's Letter—Observance of the Golden Rule Among the Pioneers—Mrs. Ebberly's Narrative—First Election Under Independent County Organization—Poll Book of Election and County Officers.

CHAPTER V

Topographical 59

Acreage of the County—Its Boundaries and Surface—The Soil—The River—Jean Jacques Blanchard—"Wild Cat Thicket"—Timber-Marshes—Sand Ridges—Crops—Springs—Benefit of the Limestone Formation—Under Drainage—Fish and Game.

CHAPTER VI

Pioneer Days 63
Early Records—Population—Settlements—Missionaries and Meeting Houses—Camp-Meetings—First Sermon—Early Schools and Schoolmasters—The Country Schoolmaker—Log Rolling—Shooting—Corn-husking—House-raisings—Threshing—Quilting Bees—Racing and Other Sports—Stores and Taverns—Necessaries of Pioneer Existence—Description of Old Time Tavern—General Muster—Malaria and Milk Sickness—Taxable Property in 1824—Tax Levies—Findlay Selected as the County Seat—The First Marriage—A Contested Election—County Printing—Road-Building—Administration of Estates—A Foul Murder—Simon Girty—Johnny Appleseeds—J. N. Free.

CHAPTER VII

Transportation 87
First Roads and Bridges—Steam Railroads—Electric Roads.

CHAPTER VIII

The County's Military Record 94
The War of 1812—The Mexican War—The Civil War—Spanish-American War.

CHAPTER IX

The Bench and Bar 105
Early History—Famous Judges and Lawyers—Hancock County Bar Association—First Jail and Court-House.

CHAPTER X

The Press 132
Early News Conditions—Presses in Use—The Old Time Compositor—Leading Newspapers of the County—Their Proprietors and Editors—Value of the Daily Press.

CHAPTER XI

The Medical Profession 140
Hancock County Medical Men of the Past and of the Present.

CHAPTER XII

Hancock County Societies 150
The Fraternal Lodges—The Odd Fellows—Masons—Elks—Tribe of Ben Hur—Daughters of America—Grand Army of the Republic—The W. C. T. U.—The Hancock County Agricultural Society.

CHAPTER XIII

Church History 163
The Pioneer Preacher—Hardships Endured—Small Salaries—Progress of the Various Denominations in Hancock County—Churches of Findlay and Hancock County.

CHAPTER XIV

Allen, Amanda and Blanchard Townships 174

CHAPTER XV

Big Lick, Cass and Delaware Townships 187

CHAPTER XVI

Eagle, Jackson and Liberty Townships 197

CHAPTER XVII

Madison, Marion and Orange Townships 209

CHAPTER XVIII

Pleasant, Portage, Union, Van Buren and Washington Townships, Agricultural Statistics 219

CHAPTER XIX

Towns and Villages 239
Sketches of Arcadia, Arlington, Benton Ridge, Cannonsburg, Deweyville, Findlay (including Gas and Oil Industry and Findlay College), Fostoria, Houcktown, Jenera, McComb, Mt. Blanchard, Mt. Cory, Rawson, Shawtown, Van Buren, Vanlue, West Independence, Williamstown, Etc.

CHAPTER XX.

Manufacturing Industries 271
The Hancock Brick and Tile Co.—Buckeye Traction Ditcher Co.—U. S. Electric Porcelain Co.—Findlay Clay Pot Co.—Boss Manufacturing Co. —D. Kirk Sons & Co.—Findlay Table Manufacturing Co.—Hollerback Piano Co.—The H. H. Fassett Planing Mill—Tarbox and McCall—Findlay Casket Co.—Hayward & Young—Findlay Carriage Co.

CHAPTER XXI

Banks and Banking 276
Commercial Bank and Savings Co.—The American National Bank—The First National Bank—The City Banking Co.—The Buckeye National Bank.

CHAPTER XXII

Recapitulation and Statistics.....281
Comparison of Early and Present Conditions—Road Building—Sewerage—Timber—Land Values—Agricultural Prosperity—Public Buildings—Water Supply—Manufacturing Industries—Some First Things—Roster Public Officials.

Representative Men 297

INDEX

Adams, James T. 615
Adams, Mnason A. 538
Adelsperger, John 599
Adelsperger, William H. 599
Agin, A. M. 387
Alexander, Eli 634
Alge, Charles 585
Alge, Joseph 411
Anderson, Fred E., V. S. 533
Anderson, Isaiah J. 533
Appleseeds, Johnny 83
Archer, Frank 328
Arras, John 539
Arras, Nicholas 539
Auten, Elbert B. 433

Baker, Alexander 430
Baker, John 430
Baker, John W. 392
Baker, Dr. Joseph P. 356
Baldwin, Dr. William H. 141
Balsley, Dr. Alfred W. 464
Bame, John 554
Barnd, John D. 457
Barnhill, Dr. Tobias G. 144
Barr, James H. 616
Barr, James M. 616
Battles, Asa 579
Battles, Edward 631
Battles, William 578
Beach, Dr. J. W. H. 471
Beagle, Alva 546
Beagle, John S. 546
Beardsley, Daniel B. 119, 323
Beardsley, Dr. Herbert V. 323
Beck, C. E. 507
Benington, Ozias E. 573
Bensinger, Reuben 358
Bensinger, William 358
Betts, John E. 547
Bibler, David A. 432
Bibler, John 432
Bibler, Samuel M. 472
Bickelhaupt, Frederick J. 375
Bicknell, J. E. 549
Biggs, Dr. Don B. 507
Biggs, Rev. Peter 507
Biglow, Aaron H. 116
Blackford, Aaron 117
Bloom, William F. 569
Boger, Jacob H., D. D. S. 647
Bolton, Samuel H. 437
Bope, Col. James A. 327
Bope, Edward V. 328
Boutwell, Edward 532
Boutwell, Edwin 532
Bower, Adam 531
Bower, Jacob 531
Bowersox, Benjamin 421
Bowersox, Robert 423
Brenner, John 507
Brenner, Mathias 507
Brickman, Lewis F. 417
Bright, Hon. Charles 331
Bright, David 331
Brinkman, Henry 586
Brinkman, Henry C. 586
Brinkman, Henry W. 569
Brown, Ezra 114
Brown, Frank 360
Brown, Rev. Charles I. 304
Brown, Henry 116
Bunn, W. C. 498
Bunts, William C. 119
Burket, E. W. 473
Burnette, C. R. 509

Bushong, Isaac 563
Byal, John M. 622
Byall, Absolom P. 120

Canfield, Cyrus W. 376
Caples, John F. 118
Carlin, Dr. William D. 142
Carr, Charles W. 407
Carr, Cyrus H. 407
Carrothers, Dr. M. M. 442
Casterline, Cyrus L. 637
Champion, George K. 422
Champion, William J. 422
Child, Daniel E. 555
Clark, Charles 466
Clark, James R. 349
Clark, Wesley 466
Clayton, Joseph B. 319
Cloud, Robert W. 394
Coates, Everett H. 577
Coffin, M. L. 608
Coffinberry, Andrew 118
Coffinberry, Charles S. 116
Coffinberry, Hon. James M. 115
Cole, John W. 574
Cole, William W. 574
Conine, James H. 304
Conine, Lyman M. 304
Cookson, Franklin 421
Cooper, Allen 602
Cooper, Hon. Willis E. 602
Corthell, Clinton S. 612
Crawford, Jackson H. 531
Crawford, Lawrence J. 479
Crist, E. E. 482
Crist, John M. 482
Crites, Jacob T. 449
Crothers, Dr. M. M. 148
Cusac, James S. 417

Dailey, Baker 346
Dailey, Samuel C. 346
Darbyshire, Dr. Morris A. 307
David, Harry G. 395
Davis, Charles 592
Davis, Isaac 344
Davis, N. D. 337
Davis, William 344
Decker, James 418
Decker, Leonard B. 418
Deeds, Charles W. 450
Deeds, Henry 605
Deming, Richard B. 332
Dennis, Charles 633
De Rodes, Rev. Henry C. 447
Deter, Charles 607
Detwiler, Dr. William D. 143
Dick, David 396
Dick, George 396
Dicus, A. C. 638
Diebley, William 300
Diller, E. L. 443
Dorsey, Hon. Homer O. 367
Dorsey, Wallace 338
Dreisbach, D. M. 355
Dukes, Charles C. 301
Dukes, Jasper 601
Dukes, John 301
Duncan, William F. 646
Dunn, Elijah T. 122

Edwards, Luke 530
Elsea, Harley C. 303
Entrikin, Dr. Franklin W. 144
Ewing, Alvin C. 540
Ewing, Erwin E. 380
Ewing, Hiram C. 403
Ewing, Jacob 403
Ewing, Jacob 380

Falk, William H. 532
Ferguson, Jeremiah 575
Fetters, Irvin 340
Fetters, Peter 340
Findlay, Col. James 646
Firmin, Dr. Francis W. 353
Firmin, John C. 530
Firmin, Dr. Lorenzo 495
Fiscus, William J. 391
Folk Bros. 335
Folk, John C. 335
Folk, Samuel S. 335
Foreman, John F. 608
Foreman, Richard M. 544
Foreman, Rufus 608
Fox, Elias 406
Fox, Nicholas 456
Fox, William 456
Franks, Jasper 614
Franks, Samuel S. 614
Free, Jacob Newman 84
Frick, Daniel W. 610
Fry, Benjamin F. 424
Fry, Henry 424

Fuller, Andrew G. 655

Garber, Christian 302
Garber, Leroy E. 302
Geisey, Ulysses G. 489
George, Dr. Edward 526
Gibson, John W. 330
Glathart, Aaron J. 428
Glathart, Harry A. 456
Glessner, Leonard C. 343
Gohlke, Richard J. 423
Goit, Edson 111
Good, A. H. 468
Gorby, Levi 396
Green, Chester L. 548
Gressly, Jacob 459
Gressly, P. J. 459
Gribben, William 117
Groves, Hon. E. Lincoln 353
Guise, Dr. J. M. 147
Guise, Dr. P. O. 147

Hagerty, Hon. D. P. 502
Hamlin, John M. 611
Hammond, George F. 545
Hammond, Thomas 524
Hammond, William P. 524
Harry, Jasper F. 411
Hart, Abraham 473
Hart, Isaac 543
Hart, John 472
Hartman, Dr. John V. 580
Hay, Edwin R. 476
Hay, Peter 476
Hayward, Collin D. 467
Heimhofer, John B. 509
Heldman, John 451
Hennings, William J. 441
Hersh, Dr. Edward G. 529
Hickle, George J. 513
Higbie, Dr. J. L. 375
Hillshafer, Conrad 515
Hilty, Elmer 465
Hilty, John H. 629
Hirscher, Martin 459
Hirscher, William G. 459
Hofmaster, Alpheus 637
Hofmaster, Jonas 637
Hogrefe, Conrad H. 584
Hopper, Ernest W. 437
Hopper, William 437
Horn, George J. 475
Horn, John B. 475
Hosler, Peter 556
Hosler, William F. 556
Houck, William 587
Houck. W. E. 587
Houck, William H. 623
Huff, Judge Abraham 108
Huffman, Norman 526
Huffman, Oliver 606
Hughes, Dr. Don C. 427
Humphrey, Jarvis 495
Hurd, Dr. Anson 142
Hurin, Hon. Silas E. 320

Iler, Jackson 465
Iler, Lemuel C. 465
Inebit, Peter 368
Insley, Martin 458

Jackson Company, C. F. 415
Jackson, C. F. 415
Jackson, Edward E. 415
Jelly, John H. 506
Johns, James S. 359
Jones, Elijah P. 648
Jones, George P. 335
Jordan, Charles E. 643
Jordan, William 401

Kagey, William M. 432
Kagy, David B. 517
Kagy, Hon. Joseph R. 521
Karg, Albert E. 589
Karg Bros. 589
Karg, Charles A. 589
Karg, Fred J. 589
Karn, Ezra 613
Karn, Theodore 613
Karst, Frank 618
Keeran, George W. 413
Keeran, Dr. Rueben B. 523
Kelley, Charles A. 639
Kennedy, Mrs. Cornelius, M. D. 147
Kilgour, Charles 474
Kimmell, Dr. Jacob A. 501
Kinder, Hon. W. H. 297
Kinder, Hon. William R. 608
King, Dr. Cyrus F. 412
King, John 412
King, Robert L. 560
Kirkbride, James W. 564
Kirsten, Oscar 450

Kramer, N. J. 383
Krichbaum, William 329
Kobe, Carl 439
Kyser, Dr. Abraham M. 373
Kyser, Cornelius 373

Lang, Thomas W. 402
Lanning, J. N. 487
Lee, Dr. Richard N. 558
Leeper, William O. 339
Lehr, Dr. William F. 576
Lightfoot, Daniel F. 536
Lightfoot, Henry 536
Linaweaver, Dr. Albert H. 147
Line, Jacob 592
Line, James O. 643
Linger, Thomas C. 623
Long, James 405
Long, Hon. John M. K. 513
Long, John W. 405
Long, R. J. 405
Lowe, Hon. S. E. 488
Luden, Frederick 379
Lyon, Albert B. 440
Lyon, Henry L. 490
Lyon, Edward S. 311

McAnelly, Moses 605
McCall, James A. 418
McCaughey, William D. 544
McDowell, P. 522
McKelvy, Samuel L. 379
McKinnis, Judge Robert 107
McLeod, Dr. Joseph R. 651
McManness, Lemuel 309
McNeal, Arthur N. 398
McNeal, John P. 398
Mackey, Robert I. 645
Mackey, William 645
MacLachlan, Dr. Norman L. 317
Manecke, Henry 393
Manecke, William 393
Marquart, J. P. 433
Martin, Jerome M. 313
Martin, Dr. John C. F. 145
Marvin, Isaac W. 347
Marvin, Stephen 347
Mathewson, Peter A. 523
Mathewson, Dr. W. R. 523
Matter, Daniel 566
Merriam, Arnold F. 112
Metzler, Dr. Willis M. 650
Metzler, Jacob L. 584
Miller, Frank L. 404
Miller, Jones R. 404
Mitchell, George A. 395
Molder, Allen 320
Molder, Frank 320
Molder & Sons, H. 320
Montgomery, George 621
Montgomery, George C. 577
Montgomery, George W. 577
Montgomery, Jesse W. 386
Montgomery, John T. 535
Moore, Andrew J. 338
Moore, Hon. Charles I. 442
Moore, Ralph W. 652
Moorehead, John E. 431
Moorehead, Samuel Edgar 431
Moorhead, Andrew 581
Moorhead, Samuel Edwin 581
Moorhead, Thaddeus E. 581
Morehart, Harry J. 427
Morehart, Jesse D. 427
Morrison, John H. 113
Mosier, Cory E. 310
Mosier, John P. 630
Mowery, George W. 365
Mumma, E. Leslie E. 320
Mungen, Hon. William 118

Neeley, O. E. 582
Neff, M. D. 618
Neiswander, Joshua 596
Neuman, August 621
Niles, Charles E. 603
Nonnamaker, Rev. John J. 496
Norris, Alexander M. 499
Norris, D. L. 499
Norris, George W. 628
Nusser, John A. 652
Nusser, William C. 484

Oehlschlager, Joseph 521
Oesterlin, Dr. Charles 141
Oller, Clarence J. 537
O'Neal, Hon. Charles W. 113
Opp, A. L. 606
Opp, Benjamin F. 347
Opp, John 348

Palmer, Hon. John M. 122
Parker, Abel F. 114
Parker, Harry J. 343

Patterson, Charles W. 601
Patterson, Frank T. 601
Patterson, Joseph S. 600
Patterson, William M. 115
Pendleton, Hon. George F. 298
Pepple, David E. 640
Pletcher, Samuel S. 466
Poe, John 492
Poe, Merle N. 492
Powell, Bateman B. 302
Powell, Daniel 302
Powell, Dr. H. J. 655
Powell, Dr. Jacob E. 364
Powell, Dr. J. E. 147
Powell, Oliver 626
Priddy, Hon. S. N. E. 567
Pugh, Joseph 550

Rader, Henry B. 452
Rader, John 452
Rausch, Peter 549
Rawson, Dr. Bass 140
Redick, Adam 627
Redick, Benjamin 627
Reimund, John 348
Reimund, William 349
Renninger, Samuel E. 573
Renshler, John D. 553
Rettig, Adam 622
Reycraft, Dr. Albert J. 515
Rhinehammer, Daniel 318
Rhinehammer, Sylvester 318
Riddlebaugh, Henry 345
Riddlebaugh, John H. 345
Rieck, Charles 489
Robinson, Frank S. 443
Robinson, Jacob M. 570
Robinson, Samuel H. 570
Robinson, S. G. 497
Roller, Henry S. 574
Roller, Michael 574
Rose, Rev. Alvan 363
Rose, John S. 363
Rosenberg, Jacob 133
Rosette, John E. 116
Roth, Charles P. 358
Roth, George 358
Ruckman, Dr. J. M. 568
Ruhl, John S. 448
Rummell, William R. 559
Russell, Alfred L. 369
Rutledge, Abraham 640
Rutledge, H. J. 640

Sampson, Albert 337
Saunders, Dr. O. H. 525
Saunders, Thomas J. 525
Schaller, Christian 403
Schaller, Philip 403
Scothorn, A. W. 312
Scothorn, W. W. 312
Searfoss, Jacob 385
Searfoss, Levi 385
Shafer, M. C. 627
Shafer, Solomon 500
Shank, Albert 501
Shank, Frank C. 500
Sharninghouse, George F. 505
Sharninghouse, William 505
Shaw, Hon. O. P. 299
Sheldon, J. C. 378
Sheppard, Clark L. 370
Shoop, Daniel 460
Shoop, Joseph E. 481
Shuler, Charles H. 463
Shuler, Henry 463
Sink, J. J. 455
Slupe, Jacob 587
Smith, Augustus M. 483
Smith, Charles F. 369
Smith, Henry W. 632
Smith, John W. 510
Smith, McConnell B. 311
Smith, Peter J. 413
Smith, William F. 632
Snider, Samuel 309
Snider, Solomon 309
Snively, Samuel 407
Snyder, William E. 580
Solt, Herbert S. 534
Solt, Peter 534
Spitler, Douglas 590
Spitler, Eli 449
Stall, George W. 448
Stall, John F. 448
Steiner, J. L. 583
Steiner, P. D. 583
Steiner, Rev. T. R. 467
Stoker, Harrison W. 388
Stoker, Tunis 388
Stouffer, Joseph 439
Stouffer, Samuel 439
Stough, Christopher 525

Stough, George 518
Stough, George S. 536
Stough, Henry 518
Stover, Samuel S. 558
Swab, George 416
Swab, John W. 354
Swab, Samuel 416
Swab, Solomon 355
Swartz, Marion 565
Swinehart, Andrew 553
Swinehart, P. P. 553

Tarbox, Harry L. 609
Taylor, Charles 638
Taylor, Edmund C. 625
Taylor, Homer L. 638
Taylor, John W. 350
Taylor, Rufus E. 330
Taylor, Washington 350
Thomas, Dr. Earl J. 148
Thomas, Henry B. 597
Thomas, Jacob 597
Thomas, J. Curtis 378
Thomas, John D. 487
Thomas, Levi M. 378
Thompson, George R. 516
Thompson, L. F. 516
Todd, Benjamin 593
Todd, Dr. Calvin D. 391
Todd, Elisha 593
Todd, William H. 391
Totten, Hon. Theodore 340
Tritch, Dr. John C. 314
Tritch, Parlee C. 314
Trout, George F. 498
Trout, Len 499
Trovinger, Dr. J. R. 624
Twining, Robert P. 563

Urban, Ernest E. 479

Van Eman, George F. 534
Van Horn, Dr. Allison M. 147
Vanhorn, Charles E. 568
Van Horn, Dr. W. S. 482
Varnum, Dr. J. H. 459

Vickers, Dr. Hilton A. 565

Waaland, Jens J. 480
Waggoner, William G. 610
Walker, Hon. James B. 596
Walker, S. C. 516
Wanamaker, Eliphes 543
Warfel, Ephraim M. 471
Wells, Harvey H. 633
Wentz, Ross 329
Wertenberger, George H. 557
Wertenberger, John 557
Westfall, Dewitt C., D. O. 490
Wetherald, Ross J. 497
Wetherald, Sylvester R. 497
Wheland, Clyde 365
Whiteley, Hon. Machias C. 114
Williams, Elijah 114
Williamson, Dr. Milton S. 148
Williamson, W. A. 556
Williamson, W. M. 556
Wilson, Judge Ebenezer 108
Wilson, Dr. Huron S. 148
Wise, Oscar 578
Wisely, Martin L. 644
Wisely, William P. 644
Wittenmyer, W. H. 484
Wolf, Levi 491
Wolf, Mrs. Mary 491
Woods, James 386
Woods, Dr. L. S. 385
Worden, A. L. 590
Worden, A. C. 590
Worst, Joseph 560
Wortman, John 474
Wyer, Henry 363
Wyer, Henry 324
Wyer, J. N. 360
Wyer, William W. 324

Yates, Darius W. 650
Yost, Dr. William N. 384

Zeller, John W. 616
Zophi, Dr. J. W. 148

J. A. KIMMELL, M. D.

History of Hancock County

CHAPTER I.

SETTLEMENT OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORY AND ORGANIZATION OF THE STATE OF OHIO.

Introductory—Derivation of Title and Early Explorations—Achievement of George Rogers Clark—State Cessions and Indian Treaties—Settlement—Indian Wars—St. Clair's Defeat—Wayne's Campaign and Battle of Fallen Timber—Organization of the Northwest Territory—Organization of the State of Ohio.

Hancock County constitutes a small portion of that vast domain known as the Northwest Territory, which embraced within its limits all of the present States of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin. Yet the history of the county cannot be properly written without some account of the more important events that concern the exploration, development and organization of the territory as a whole. Long before the first white man had set foot on the soil of what is now Hancock County, her destiny was being shaped by events of even greater importance than any that have transpired within her own borders; and long prior to her organization as a county, wars were being fought, treaties made, and laws enacted through which alone her very existence was made a possibility. While the present work contemplates particularly an account of those events which are peculiar to Hancock County as a separate civil subdivision of the State, and while the reader must be referred to the larger and more pretentious histories of the Northwest Territory and Ohio for fuller information regarding them as a whole, yet it is deemed necessary to a proper understanding of the history of the county to review some of the leading events that characterized the development of the entire domain, and to present, in outline, some of the chief circumstances that have contributed to the present condition of prosperity and power occupied by this widely extended area.

DERIVATION OF TITLE.

The claims first asserted to lands in the Western Hemisphere by European monarchs were based on discoveries made by their subjects. Accordingly we find all that vast region between the Allegheny and the Rocky Mountains, originally known by the general name of Louisiana, claimed by France, in consequence of the explorations, chiefly, of Father Marquette, a Jesuit missionary, and La Salle. In 1673 Marquette, accompanied by M. Joliet, starting from Mackinac, traced their way

southward from there to the Wisconsin River, which they followed to its junction with the Mississippi. They then descended the Mississippi for a 1,000 miles, and, on their return to Canada, urged in the strongest terms the immediate occupation of this vast and fertile region watered by the Mississippi and its tributaries. There are other accounts of the discovery of the Mississippi, but the one ascribing it to Marquette seems to be the first that is authentic.

Between the years 1678 and 1682 La Salle with Father Hennepin, conducted a series of explorations around the great lakes and along the Mississippi, going as far south as Peoria Lake, Illinois. Here they erected a fort, after which La Salle returned to Canada. Father Hennepin explored the region now embraced within the limits of Ohio and is said to have published a volume containing an account of his discoveries "in the country between New Mexico and the frozen ocean," together with maps of Lake Erie, Huron and Michigan, and a plat of the larger streams of Ohio. In 1683 La Salle went to France and induced the French Government to fit out an expedition for the purpose of planting a colony at the mouth of the Mississippi. The expedition failed completely, however, La Salle being murdered by one of his own men.

The French still persisted in their efforts to gain possession of this vast region, west of the Alleghenies and the English colonies. Under the command of M. D'Iberville a second expedition sailed from France, entered the mouth of the Mississippi (March 2, 1699), and explored the river for several hundred miles. A chain of trading, missionary and military posts was ultimately established extending from New Orleans to Quebec by way of the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers, and thence, by way of Mackinaw and Detroit, to Lakes Erie and Ontario. This route was afterward shortened by following the Ohio River to the Wabash, and then following the latter upward and down the Maumee to Lake Erie. The French colonies, increasing steadily in numbers and strength, aroused the jealousy of the English, who, to check their advancement, formed what was known as the Ohio Company. This company made some attempts to establish trading houses among the Indians. The French, however, established a chain of fortifications back of the English settlements and thus secured to themselves the entire control of the Mississippi Valley.

Inasmuch as this same territory was claimed by the English Crown, it is necessary to consider the basis of the rights which she asserted. Her chief ground for claiming title to the territory west of the Alleghenies, was a treaty made with the Six Nations (otherwise known as the Iroquois) in the Ohio Valley. It was claimed that these nations had placed their lands under the protection of the British Crown. It was further asserted that in 1744 the British had purchased lands of these Six Nations by treaty at Lancaster, Pennsylvania. In 1748 the Ohio Company, organized by a number of Virginians and Londoners, obtained a charter from the British Government with a grant of 6,000 acres of land on the Ohio. The English, reverting to the times of the Cabots, claimed that by right they held the entire country from the Atlantic to the Pacific, bounded by the parallels of latitude defining their Atlantic Coast settlements. Inasmuch as France claimed the region drained by the Mississippi and its tributaries, together with the Great Lakes and their tributaries, Ohio was

within the disputed territory. When the surveys for the lands of the Ohio Company were begun, the Governor of Canada entered a vigorous protest by establishing the line of forts to which we have before alluded. The dispute over this territory between the French and English was finally settled by the treaty following what is familiarly known in history as the French and Indian War. By the terms of that treaty, made in Paris in 1763, the British Crown came into undisputed possession of all the vast territory northwest of the Ohio.

The territory included within the present limits of Ohio, together with the entire domain northwest of the Ohio River of unknown extent, was originally claimed by Virginia. Her title rested upon three grants from the British Crown. The first charter was granted in 1606 by James I. to Sir Thomas Gates, Sir George Somers and others, authorizing them to establish two colonies, the first being known in history as the "London Company," and the second as the "Plymouth Company." The grant to the London Company covered a strip of sea coast fifty miles broad between the 34th and 41st parallels. In 1606 King James granted a second charter to the London Company. The territorial limits of the first charter were extended to embrace the whole sea-coast, north and south, within two hundred miles of Old Point Comfort, extending "from sea to sea, west and northwest." A third charter, granted in 1612, annexed to Virginia all the islands within three hundred leagues of the coast.

Virginia, however, was not undisputed in her assertion of title to the whole of this extensive region. Both Connecticut and Massachusetts claimed portions of the territory. In 1662 Charles II. granted to certain settlers upon the Connecticut all the territory between the parallels of latitude which include the present State of Connecticut, from the Atlantic to the Pacific oceans. The claims of Massachusetts were founded on a similar charter granted thirty years later. New York also had claims which she asserted.

A glance at the map will show the territories thus loosely defined in these different charters, overlapped each other, which subsequently gave rise to serious disputes between the States concerned.

ACHIEVEMENT OF GEORGE ROGERS CLARK.

By the treaty of peace, signed at Paris, September 3, 1783, the claims of the English monarch to the whole of the northwest territory were ceded to the United States. "The provisional articles which formed the basis of the treaty, more especially as related to boundary, were signed at Paris, November 30, 1872. During the pendency of the negotiation of these preliminary articles, Mr. Oswald, the British commissioner, proposed the River Ohio as the western boundary of the United States, and but for the indomitable perseverance of the Revolutionary patriot, John Adams, one of the American commissioners, who opposed the proposition, and insisted upon the Mississippi as the boundary, the probability is that the proposition of Mr. Oswald would have been acceded to by the United States Commissioners." That the British were prevented from making a reasonable claim to the territory northwest of the Ohio was due, in large measure, to the fact that this extensive domain was wrested from their hands during the Revolutionary war through the valor and foresight of General George Rogers Clark. On the outbreak of the Revolution he saw

through the whole plan of the British who held all the outpost, Kaskaskia, Detroit, Vincennes and Niagara. It was the hope of the British that by means of these outposts they might encircle the Americans and also unite the Indians in a common war against them. Clark knew that many of the Indian tribes were divided in their feeling or but indifferent in their support of the British. He conceived the idea that if the British could be driven from their outpost, the Indians could be easily awed into submission or bribed into neutrality or friendship. Acting upon this theory, and first enlisting the support of Patrick Henry, then governor of Virginia, he organized an expedition which was entirely successful in wresting control of the country west of the Ohio from the British. To him, as well as to John Adams, is due unlimited credit for the fact that the Ohio River was not made the boundary between Canada and the United States.

STATE CESSIONS AND INDIAN TREATIES.

At the close of the Revolutionary war, the title to the British possessions having passed to the several colonies, each one, as a sovereign and independent state, claimed the right of soil and jurisdiction over the lands which had been originally granted it in its charter. As we have already observed, several states laid claim to portions of the vast, unappropriated tracts northwest of the Ohio. It was insisted by those States whose charters gave them no claims to any portion of this territory that inasmuch as the entire domain had been won from the British by the united efforts of all the colonies, the lands themselves should be appropriated for the benefit of all the states. It was repeatedly urged upon the states themselves which claimed ownership in these lands, that they should cede them for the common benefit of all. Responding to this demand the State of Virginia, on March 1, 1784, ceded to the United States her claims to ownership and jurisdiction over the entire part of the country embraced in her charter lying northwest of the Ohio. She made a condition, however, that in case the lands lying south of the Cumberland River were not sufficient to satisfy the bounties in land which she had issued to her soldiers during the Revolutionary War, then this deficiency was to be made up out of lands in this territory, lying between the rivers Miami and Scioto. The jurisdiction over all the land, however, passed to the United States. Likewise Connecticut, on September 13, 1786, relinquished to the United States all her claims to lands lying within this same territory, with the exception of the tract known as the Western Reserve. This she deeded to the United States May 30, 1800. The president, however, immediately conveyed the fee of the soil to the governor of the State for the use of grantees and purchasers coming under her, similar to the manner in which Virginia had also been allowed the fee of the soil in a certain portion to satisfy her military warrants. Massachusetts and New York also gave up their claims, thus giving to the United States a clear title to the whole of this vast region in so far as it had been claimed by European powers.

There still remained, however, the claims of the Indians to the lands as the original possessors of the soil. It was necessary that these should be disposed of before the white settlers could rightfully take possession. Accordingly a treaty was made with the Six Nations, embracing the Mohawks, Onondagas, Senecas, Cayugas, Oneidas and Tuscaroras, at Fort

Stanwix, October 27, 1784. By the terms of this treaty, all the lands west of a line drawn from the mouth of Oswego Creek, about four miles east of Virginia, to the mouth of Buffalo Creek and on to the northern boundary of Pennsylvania, thence west along that boundary to its western extremity, thence south to the Ohio River, were ceded to the United States. There were other Indian nations, however, besides those mentioned, who also asserted ownership over this territory. They included the Wyandot, Chippewa, Delaware and Ottawa Nations. With these also the United States made a treaty at Fort McIntosh on the 21st day of January, 1785. By this treaty the boundary line between the United States and the Wyandot and Delaware Nations was declared to begin "at the mouth of the river Cuyahoga and to extend up said river to the Portage, between that and the Tuscaroras branch of the Muskingum, thence down that branch to the crossing-place above Fort Laurens, then westerly to the Portage of the Big Miami, which runs into the Ohio, at the mouth of which branch the fort stood which was taken by the French in 1752; then along said Portage to the Great Miami, or Omee River, and down the south side of the same to its mouth; then along the south shore of Lake Erie to the mouth of the Cuyahoga River, where it began." "The United States allotted all the lands contained within said lines to the Wyandot and Delaware Nations, to live and hunt on, together with such of the Ottawa Nations as lived thereon, saving and reserving for the establishment of trading posts, six miles square at the mouth of the Miami or Omee River, and the same at the Portage, on that branch of the Big Miami which runs into the Ohio, and the same on the Lake of Sandusky where the fort formerly stood, and also two miles square on each side of the Lower Rapids of the Sandusky River." This treaty was afterwards renewed and confirmed by Governor St. Clair, and the Wyandot, Chippewa, Pottawatomie, and Sac Nations at Fort Harmar in 1789.

On the 3rd of August, 1795, a treaty was made with the Delawares, Ottawas, Pottawatomies and Eel River Indians by General Wayne after the close of his succesful campaign against them, terminating in the Battle of Fallen Timbers. The basis of this treaty was the previous one at Fort Harmar, the boundaries made at that time being reaffirmed, and the whites secured on the lands now occupied by them or granted by former treaties. This treaty marked the close of the Indian wars.

A treaty was made with the Indians at Fort Industry, on the present site of Toledo, in 1805, by which the United States acquired, for the use of the grantees of Connecticut, all that part of the Western Reserve which lies west of the Cuyahoga. The lands west of Huron and Richland Counties, and north of the Indian boundary line fixed by Wayne's treaty at Greenville, to the western limits of Ohio, were purchased by the United States in 1818 by a treaty made at St. Mary's. The lands ceded at this time were called the New Purchase. Certain reservations were made within the purchased tracts to the Delawares, Wyandots, Senecas, etc., which were subsequently ceded to the United States, the last by the Wyandots in 1842, they then being the only Indian tribe left within the State. Thus through a long series of explorations, wars, cessions and treaties has the title of the United States to lands of Ohio been derived. The organization of

the Northwest into a territorial subdivision and the subsequent formation and admission to the Union, of the State of Ohio, has been reserved for later consideration.

SETTLEMENT.

The first English attempt at settlement of which we have any record, within the present limits of the State of Ohio, was at a point in Shelby County on Loramie Creek, about sixteen miles northwest of the present city of Sidney, and since known by the name of Loramie's Store. Here some English traders established themselves about the year 1749, and gave it the name of Pickawillany from the tribe of Indians there. The settlement however, was doomed to be of short duration. As we have heretofore seen, this location was clearly within the limits claimed by the French, and immediately aroused them to action. They could not endure so evident an invasion of their country, and gathering a force of the Ottawas, and Chippewas, their allies, they attacked the fort in June, 1752, having first demanded its surrender of the Miamis, who had granted the English the privilege of its erection. In the battle that ensued, fourteen of the Miamis were slain and all of the traders captured. They were either burned or taken to Canada as prisoners.

Most historians have regarded the settlement at Marietta, on April 7, 1788, as the first permanent white settlement in Ohio, but a closer investigation would seem to confer that honor upon Steubenville in Jefferson County, which was previously the site of Fort Steuben. This fort was visited by Major Ekuries Beatty in February, 1787, it being then guarded by Captain Hamtramck's and Mercer's companies. Although the garrison was removed in 1787, the fort continued to be a refuge for settlers until 1790, when it was accidentally destroyed by fire. Quite an account of life within its palisades was given by John Matthews, a nephew of General Putnam, who was one of the surveyors. According to Mr. Matthews' journal, this fort was not merely a small military garrison, but a busy center of frontier life, where people were coming and going, and where the foundations of a permanent and prosperous community were being laid. All this was in the year preceding the settlement of Marietta and that settlement was made possible by the work done here. It is very likely that the Marietta Argonauts landed at Steubenville on the way down, where the fort and settlement had already stood for a year and a half, and where there were already more people than in the visiting party. However this may be, a brief sketch of the Marietta settlement will be of interest as being an important part of the early history of the State, and the following facts, therefore, are worthy of attention.

We have already traced the various steps by which the title to the lands became vested in the United States, and through which alone the settlers could be secure in their possession. The final cession by the various states claiming rights in the northwest territory, to the Central Government, was the occasion for the formation of various land companies in the East, having for their purpose the settlement of this western country. The Ohio Company, before mentioned, emerged from the past and again became active. In the year 1786 Benjamin Tupper, a Revolutionary soldier, and General Rufus Putnam, circulated a pamphlet proposing the formation of a company for the purpose of settling the Ohio lands. It invited all

those interested to meet in February in their respective counties and choose delegates to a convention to be held at the "Bunch of Grapes" Tavern in Boston on March 1, 1786. The purpose was to be the formation of a company and the adoption of definite plans for establishing a settlement in the Ohio Valley. On the day appointed eleven persons appeared, an outline was drawn up, and subscriptions began at once. The principal features of the plan were as follows: "A fund of $1,000,000, mainly in continental certificates, was to be raised for the purpose of purchasing lands in the western country; there were to be 1,000 shares of $1,000 each, and upon each share $10 in specie were to be paid for contingent expenses. One year's interest was to be appropriated for the charges of making a settlement and assisting those unable to move without aid. The owners of every twenty shares were to choose an agent to represent them and attend to their interests, and the agents were to choose the directors. The plan was approved, and in a years' time from that date the company was organized."

On the 8th of March, 1787, a meeting of the agents chose General Parsons, General Rufus Putnam and Rev. Manassah Cutler, directors for the Company. The selection of Manassah Cutler was extremely fortunate for the success of the enterprise, as few men could have been better fitted, both in character and ability, to conceive and execute a project of such importance as this would prove to be. A contract was made with the Treasury Board by Cutler and Winthrop Sargent, as agents for the Board of Directors of the Ohio Company, on October 27, 1787, by which there was conveyed to the company a vast region bounded on the south by the Ohio River, west by the Scioto, east by the seventh range of townships then surveying, and north by a due west line drawn from the north boundary of the tenth township from the Ohio direct to the Scioto, for the consideration of $1 per acre. Later, in 1792, the boundaries of the purchase were fixed as follows: The Ohio on the south, the seventh range of townships on the east, the sixteenth range on the west, and a line on the north so drawn as to make the grant 750,000 acres, besides reservations, this grant being the portion which it was originally agreed the company might enter into at once. In addition 214,285 acres were granted as army bounties, and 100,000 acres as bounties to actual settlers. While these preliminary arrangements for the occupation of the new territory were being carried out, Congress was likewise providing a plan for its government. The famous instrument known as the Ordinance of 1787, under which the first organization of the territory was effected, was passed on July 13th of that year, but of it we shall speak more in detail later on.

In the winter of 1787 General Rufus Putnam and forty-seven pioneers proceeded as far as the mouth of the Youghiogheny River, and, having built a boat for transportation down the Ohio, proceeded in the spring to the mouth of the Muskingum, where they landed on the 7th of April, 1788. Fort Harmar had previously been built at the mouth of the Muskingum, and it was on the opposite side of this river that the pioneers established their settlement which they later called Marietta, in honor of Marie Antoinette. With regard to this settlement of Ohio, George Washington wrote: "No colony in America was ever settled under such favorable auspices as that which has commenced at the Muskingum. Information, property, and strength will be its characteristics. I know

many of the settlers personally and there never were men better calculated to promote the welfare of such a community."

Soon after their arrival the settlers began the erection of a stockade fort, which occupied their time until the winter of 1791. During the early years of the settlement, however, the Indians were friendly, no hostilities being experienced. One of the pioneers describes the progress of the colony during its first year as being all that could be expected, arrivals coming faster than provision could be made for them. By the close of the year 1790 eight settlements had been made within the Ohio Company's purchase, two at Belpre, one at Newbury, one at Wolf Creek, one at Duck Creek, one at the mouth of Meigs' Creek, one at Anderson's Bottom, and one at Big Bottom.

Not long after the grant of lands was made to the Ohio Company, John Cleves Symmes, of New Jersey, contracted with the Treasury Board for the purchase of a large tract of land lying between the Great and Little Miami Rivers. The terms of this purchase were similar to those of the Ohio Company. In July, 1788, he got together thirty people and eight four-horse wagons who started for the West. After meeting with Mr. Stites and a company from Redstone, Pa., they proceeded, under his leadership, to the mouth of the Little Miami, where they arrived before the 1st of January, 1789, and located on a tract of 10,000 acres which Stites had purchased from Symmes. This settlement, which they named Columbia and which was located about five miles above the site of Cincinanti, was the second settlement within Ohio territory.

In 1788 Mathias Denman purchased of Symmes a tract of land opposite the Licking River, and, in company with Robert Patterson and John Filson, to each of whom he sold a third interest in his purchase, projected the location of a town on the present site of Cincinnati. There is some uncertainty as to the exact time when a settlement was first made here, but it seems to have been late in 1788 or early in 1789. Symmes himself had contemplated building his main town at North Bend, near the mouth of the Great Miami. The fact, however, that this point, as well as Columbia, suffered severely during a great flood which occurred in 1789, while Losantiville, as Cincinnati was then called, escaped, had much to do with the fact that the latter soon outstripped the others in its growth. Ensign Luce, who had been commissioned by General Harmar to establish a fort, decided that North Bend was not a suitable location for that purpose, and, contrary to the wishes of Symmes, selected Losantiville. Fort Washington was thus established here. About the 1st of January, Governor St. Clair organized the county of Hamilton and constituted Cincinnati its seat of justice. The settlement at once began an active growth, outstripping that of all the others in the Ohio Valley.

At the time Dr. Cutler secured the grant of lands for the Ohio Company, he likewise secured a large additional tract, as he himself writes, "for private speculation, in which many of the prominent characters in America are concerned; without connecting this speculation, similar terms and advantages could not have been obtained for the Ohio Company." A company was at once formed known by the name of The Scioto Land Company, which contracted with Cutler and Sargent on behalf of the Ohio Company for a tract of land west and north of the Ohio Company's purchase.

Joel Barlow was sent to Europe, as the agent of the company, to make sales of the lands thus contracted for. He sold parts of the land to companies and individuals in France. It developed, however, that the lands which Barlow had presumed to sell were included within the Ohio Company's purchase, and that the purchasers were without title. In ignorance of this fact, however, two hundred and eighteen of these purchasers sailed from Havre de Grace, in France, on the 19th day of February, 1791, and arrived in Alexandria, D. C., on the 3rd of May following. On their arrival they proceeded to Marietta, where fifty of them landed, the remainder going to the present site of Gallipolis, which the agent of the company assured them was within their purchase. Prior to their arrival General Putnam had had the site cleared and buildings erected for their reception. As before stated, however, the lands to which alone they could lay any claim, were still farther to the West. Moreover, the Scioto Land Company, by having failed to make good the payments on its contract, forfeited its title to the land which it had purchased, thus leaving the settlers themselves without any vestige of title. These settlers, unlike the hardy pioneers who came from New England, were little accustomed to toil or to the privations of frontier life. Their condition was pitiable in the extreme and many gave up in despair, some seeking homes in the East and a few returning to France. Every effort to secure titles to the lands on which they had settled having failed, they petitioned Congress for assistance and in June, 1787, a grant was made them of land on the Ohio above the mouth of the Scioto River. The tract included 24,000 acres and is known as the French Grant.

During the progress of the various campaigns against the Indians, conducted successively by General Harmar, General St. Clair, and General Wayne, the settlement of Ohio was interrupted to a large extent. Prior to the treaty made with the Indians by General Wayne in 1795, however, a start had been made in several counties, in addition to those in Washington and Hamilton counties already mentioned. The settlement at Gallipolis has already been described. There were also small settlements in Adams, Belmont and Morgan Counties. They were block-house settlements and were in a continual state of defense. The first was settled in the winter of 1790-91 by General Nathaniel Massie, near where the town of Manchester now is. This was the first settlement within the bounds of the Virginia Military District and the fourth in the State. In spite of the dangers due to the hostility of the Indians, it continued to grow and, in two years after peace was declared, Adams County was constituted by order of Governor St. Clair.

During the Indian war a settlement was commenced near the present town of Bridgeport in Belmont County, by Captain Joseph Belmont, a noted officer of the Revolutionary War. Shortly afterwards a fort, called Dillie's Fort, was built on the Ohio, opposite the mouth of Grave Creek. In 1794 a company of men located on the present site of Hamilton in Butler County. The town was first laid out under the name of Fairfield. These were about all the settlements begun prior to the close of the Indian War and they were, for the most part, of a temporary character and maintained only at constant risk and great loss of life. With the termination of the war, however, and the cessation of Indian hostility emigration took a new impetus, and from that

time the growth of the State's population was constant and vigorous.

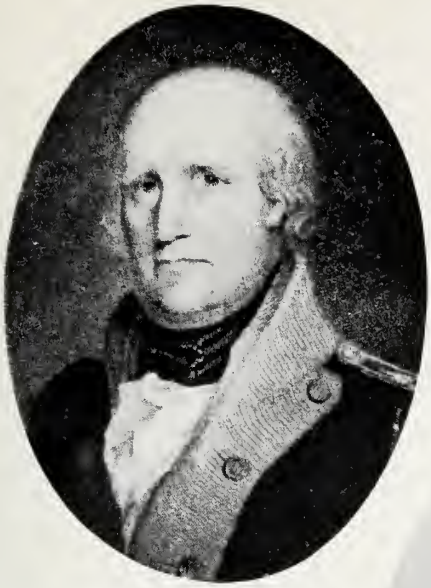
Early in the spring of 1796 the first settlement was begun in Montgomery County. The town of Dayton was laid out in November of 1795. It was within the tract originally covered by Symmes' purchase. Judge Symmes, having been unable to pay for his purchase, the land reverted to the government and the settlers found themselves without title. Congress, however, came to their aid, permitting them to enter their lands at the regular government price.

It was likewise in 1796 that the first settlements were made in the Western Reserve. The mouth of the Cuyahoga River had always been considered an important place in the West and destined to become a great commercial mart. A corps of surveyors laid out the town of Cleveland in September, 1796. It was named in honor of General Moses Cleaveland, the agent of the land company which had made large purchases in the Western Reserve along the Cuyahoga River. Mahoning County was settled about the same time, as were also the counties of Ashtabula, Rose, Licking, Madison, Trumbull, and Warren. In a sketch of such a limited character as this we cannot pursue the history of the individual settlements further. It was not long until the settlers had penetrated to every portion of the State, clearing the land, starting industries of various kinds, and preparing the way for the marvelous prosperity which has ever since characterized the history of the Commonwealth.

INDIAN WARS.

Ohio has had its full share of conflict with the various tribes of Indians which were the original possessors of its soil. Being the first State in the vast region northwest of the Ohio River within whose limits settlement by the English was begun, it naturally became the scene of the early struggles through which the savage tribes were subdued and the land made possible of habitation for the white man. While we have given, in tracing the derivation of the title to the lands, the various Indian treaties which formed a link in that title, we have reserved for statement, here, a brief account of the wars which led up to the making of these treaties, or their enforcement. With regard to the wars which took place prior to the organization of the government of the territory, we quote the concise account given in Howe's History:

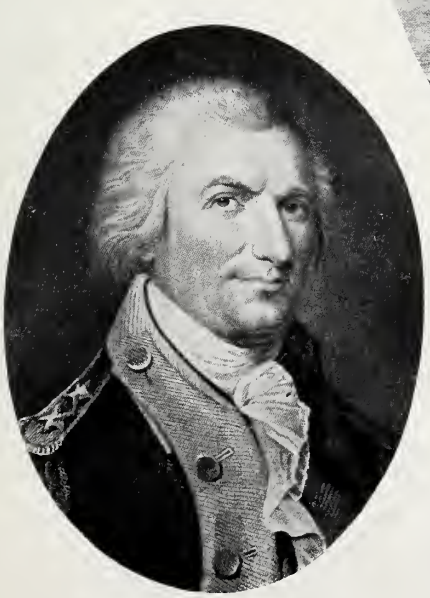
"After Braddock's defeat in 1755 the Indians pushed their excursions as far east as the Blue Ridge. In order to repel them, Major Lewis, in January, 1756, was sent with a party of troops on an expedition against the Indian towns on the Ohio. The point apparently aimed at was the upper Shawanese town, situated on the Ohio, three miles above the mouth of the great Kanawha. The attempt proved a failure, in consequence, it is said, of the swollen state of the streams and the treachery of the guides. In 1764, General Bradstreet, having dispersed the Indian forces besieging Detroit, passed into the Wyandot country by way of Sandusky Bay. He ascended the bay and river as far as it was navigable for boats, and there made a camp. A treaty of peace was signed by the chiefs and head men. The Shawnees of the Scioto River and the Delawares of the Muskingum, however, still continued hostile. Colonel Bouquet, in 1764, with a body of troops, marched from Fort Pitt into the heart of the Ohio country on the Muskingum River. This expedition was conducted with



GEN. GEORGE ROGERS CLARK

GEN. ANTHONY WAYNE

GEN.
WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON



GEN. ARTHUR ST. CLAIR

GEN. JOSIAH HARMAR

great prudence and skill and with scarcely any loss of life. A treaty of peace was effected with the Indians, who restored the prisoners they had captured from the white settlements. The next war with the Indians was in 1774, generally known as Lord Dunmore's. In the summer of that year an expedition under Colonel McDonald was assembled at Wheeling, marched into the Muskingum country, and destroyed the Indian town of Wapatomica, a few miles above the site of Zanesville. In the fall the Indians were defeated after a hard-fought battle at Point Pleasant, on the Virginia side of the Ohio. Shortly after this event Lord Dunmore made peace with the Indians at Camp Charlotte, in what is now Pickaway County.

"During the Revolutionary War most of the western Indians were more or less united against the Americans. In the fall of 1778 an expedition against Detroit was projected. As a preliminary step it was resolved that the forces in the West, under General McIntosh, should move up and attack the Sandusky Indians. Preliminary to this, Fort Laurens, so called in honor of the President of Congress, was built upon the Tuscarawas, a short distance below the site of Bolivar, Tuscarawas County. The expedition to Detroit was abandoned, and the garrison of Fort Laurens, after suffering much from the Indians and from famine, was recalled in August, 1779. A month or two previous to the evacuation of this fort Colonel Bowman headed an expedition against the Shawnees. Their village, Chillicothe, three miles north of the site of Xenia, on the Little Miami, was burned. The warriors showed an undaunted front and the whites were forced to retreat. In the summer of 1780 an expedition directed against the Indian towns in the forks of the Muskingum, moved from Wheeling under General Broadhead. This expedition, known as the 'Coshochton campaign,' was unimportant in its results. In the same summer General Clark led a body of Kentuckians against the Shawnees. Chillicothe, on the Little Miami, was burnt on their approach, but at Piqua, their town on the Mad River, six miles below the site of Springfield, they gave battle to the whites and were defeated. In September, 1782, this officer led a second expedition against the Shawnees. Their towns, Upper and Lower Piqua, on the Miami, within what is now Miami County, were destroyed, together with the store of a trader.

"There were other expeditions into the Indian country, which although of a later date, we mention in this connection. In 1786 Colonel Logan conducted a successful expedition against the Mackachack towns, on the head waters of Mad River, in what is now Logan County. Edwards, in 1787, led an expedition to the head waters of the Big Miami, and, in 1788, Todd led one into the Scioto Valley. There were also minor expeditions at various times into the present limits of Ohio.

"The Moravian missionaries, prior to the war of the Revolution, had a number of missionary stations within the limits of Ohio. The missionaries, Heckewelder and Post, were on the Muskingum as early as 1762. In March, 1782, a party of Americans, under Colonel Williamson, murdered, in cold blood, ninety-four of the defenceless Moravian Indians, within the present limits of Tuscarawas County. In the June following, Colonel Crawford, at the head of about 500 men, was defeated by the Indians three miles north of the site of Upper Sandusky, in Wyandot County.

He was taken prisoner and burnt at the stake with horrible tortures."

Although by the various treaties which we have heretofore mentioned, the English had secured title to the lands northwest of the Ohio, the Indians did not take kindly to the coming of the white settlers, and it was not long after their arrival that they began to show themselves hostile. That they were instigated, in some measure, by the British, cannot be doubted. Much could be traced to the malicious influence of the British superintendent of Indian affairs, Colonel McKee, his assistant, Captain Elliott, and the notorious white renegade, Simon Girty. A treaty confirming the former one made at Fort McIntosh, was made with the Indians at Fort Harmar in the year 1789. It had little effect, however, in staying Indian hostilities. In 1790 a company of 36 men went from Marietta to a place on the Muskingum known as Big Bottom. In view of the apparent unfriendliness of the Indians, the postponement of the settlement was advised by General Putnam and others. Moreover proper precautions were not taken against possible attacks. In an unguarded moment these settlers were set upon by the Indians and twelve of them killed. The settlers throughout the new territory immediately became alarmed and block-houses were erected for their protection. In 1789 Fort Washington was built within the present limits of Cincinnati, and a few months later General Harmar arrived with 300 men and assumed command. It was determined by Governor St. Clair and General Harmar to send an expedition against the Maumee towns and secure that part of the country. While St. Clair was forming his army and arranging for this campaign three expeditions were sent out against the Miami towns. One against the Miami villages, not far from Wabash, was led by General Harmar. With about fourteen hundred men, of whom less than one-fourth were regulars, he marched from Cincinnati in September, 1790. When near the Indian villages an advanced detachment fell into ambush and was defeated with severe loss. General Harmar, however, succeeded in burning the Indian villages and destroying their standing corn, after which he commenced the return to Cincinnati. Having received intelligence, however, that the Indians were returning to their ruined towns, he detached about a third of his remaining force, with orders to bring the Indians to an engagement. In the engagement which followed, more than one hundred of the militia were killed and all but nine of the regulars, the remainder being driven back to the main force. The expedition served little purpose other than to make the Indians, if anything, bolder than before. An army under Charles Scott was sent against the Wabash Indians. Nothing was accomplished save the destruction of towns and standing corn. In July another army under Colonel Wilkinson, was sent against the Eel River Indians. It became entangled in extensive morasses on the river and accomplished no more than the other expeditions which had preceded it.

ST. CLAIR'S DEFEAT.

Encouraged by the meager success of the whites in these expeditions, the chiefs of the Miamis, Shawnees and the Delawares now began the formation of a confederacy among all the tribes of the northwest territory, which, they conceived, would be strong enough to expel the whites beyond the Ohio. While they were making ready, however, Governor

St. Clair was engaged in the organization of a new army. He gathered together a force consisting of 2,300 regulars and 600 militia. It was his purpose to establish a chain of forts from the Ohio, by way of the Miami and Maumee Valleys, to the lakes. The plan was favored by Washington and General Knox, then secretary of war. It was said that a spirit of idleness, drunkenness and insubordination characterized the army at this time and had much to do with the defeat which followed later. On September 17, the army began its march and moved to a point on the Great Miami, where Fort Hamilton was established, the first in the chain mentioned above. The army then proceeded forty-four miles further on and erected Fort Jefferson, about six miles south of the present town of Greenville, in Darke County. On the 24th of October it again began its march through the wilderness, marshy and boggy and infested with savage foes. By the 3rd of November a stream was reached which St. Clair supposed to be a branch of the St. Mary of the Maumee, but which in reality was a tributary of the Wabash. The point was on what is now the line between Darke and Mercer Counties. The army had been so far depleted by desertion at this time that only about 1,400 men were left. St. Clair sent the first regiment, under Major Hamtramck, to pursue the deserters and secure the advancing convoys of provisions which it was feared the deserters intended to plunder. When they halted on the banks of the stream before mentioned, it encamped in two lines and threw up some slight fortifications against the Indians who were known to be in the neighborhood. On the next morning, about half an hour before sunrise, it was attacked furiously by the Indians. The evil effects of the insubordination before mentioned and the lack of sufficient drill were now made manifest. The army was thrown into hopeless confusion. It is probable that the whole disposable force of the tribes in the Northwest participated in the attack on St. Clair's army at this time. After losing about 800 men it began its retreat, which was a disgraceful, precipitate flight. After reaching Fort Jefferson it proceeded, by way of Fort Hamilton, back to Fort Washington.

This defeat was one of the worst ever suffered by an American army at the hands of the savage tribes, outrivaling even Braddock's defeat in this regard. It left the entire frontier exposed to the onslaughts of the savages, who were determined now, more than ever before, to exterminate the whites entirely. Execrations were heaped upon St. Clair who led the army to its terrible defeat. Under a more forceful commander, perhaps the result might have been different, yet the defeat was due, not alone to the inefficiency of St. Clair, but to the general demoralization of the soldiers whose insubordination we have before mentioned.

Plans were immediately formed for another campaign against the Indians. General Wayne, whose bravery and ability, as well as his experience during the Revolution, rendered him peculiarly well fitted for the task, was called to take command of the army which was raised. He immediately began the work of drill and organization.

Meanwhile efforts were being made by the United States to conciliate the Indians and avoid the necessity of warfare. The Iroquois were induced to visit Philadelphia, and were partially secured from the confederacy which we have before mentioned. Five independent embassies were sent among the western tribes

in an effort to win them over and prevent war. All the embassadors were slain, however, except Putnam, who succeeded in reaching the Wabash Indians and effecting a treaty which was later rejected by Congress on account of its terms. A great council of the Indians, in which were represented all the tribes of the Northwest, and many others, assembled at Auglaize during the autumn of 1792, and prepared an address to the President wherein they agreed to abstain from hostilities until they could meet with the whites at the rapids of the Maumee in the following spring for a conference. The President appointed commissioners who, in accordance with the arrangement, met the representatives of the tribes at the appointed place. The Indians, however, would consent to nothing save the Ohio River as the boundary of their lands. This being out of the question for the whites, the negotiations came to an end.

WAYNE'S CAMPAIGN AND BATTLE OF FALLEN TIMBER.

Nothing was now left save war. General Wayne, on being informed of the termination of the efforts at securing a treaty, immediately began active preparations for a campaign against the Indians. Pending the negotiations with the Indians he had been sending out scouts and spies on errands of discovery and he had his plans by this time practically matured. All his information showed plainly that the Indians were receiving constant aid and encouragement from the British. He had spent the winter of 1793-94 at a fort which he had built on a tributary of the Great Miami, and which he called Greenville. The present town of Greenville is near the site of the fort. On the 26th of July, 1794, General Scott, with 1,600 mounted men from Kentucky, joined General Wayne at Greenville, and two days later the entire army moved forward, reaching the junction of the Auglaize and Maumee on the 8th of August, where they erected Fort Defiance. As Wayne's army moved northward the Indians abandoned their towns and collected their entire force, amounting to about two thousand men, near a British fort, erected in violation of the treaty of 1783, at the rapids of the Maumee. Before attacking the Indians, however, Wayne made still another attempt to conciliate them. He sent Christopher Miller, who had been naturalized among the Shawnees, and taken prisoner by Wayne's spies, as a messenger of peace. Miller returned with the message that if the Americans would delay for ten days the Indians would, within that time, decide the question of war or peace. Knowing the Indian character, however, Wayne determined to move forward. On the 18th of August, having marched forty-one miles from Auglaize, and being now near to the enemy, a fortification was erected which they called Fort Deposit. They remained here until the 20th, when they again took up their march. After having proceeded about five miles the foe was encountered. In striking contrast with the condition of St. Clair's army at the time it had suffered its crushing defeat, the army was now well disciplined and fully able to cope with the enemy. The conflict which ensued was one of the fiercest in the history of Indian warfare. The Indians were completely routed and many of them were slain, while the American loss was com-

paratively slight. This celebrated engagement is what is familiarly known as the battle of Fallen Timber. It was fought almost under the walls of the British fort. When the commander of that fort demanded an explanation of Wayne as to why he had fought so near and in evident hostility to the British, Wayne replied, not only by telling him he had no rights in the country, but by also marching forward and devastating the Indian country.

While the Indians were not immediately subdued by the crushing defeat received from Wayne, yet it went a long way towards breaking the strength of their hostility. Recognizing, at length, that opposition to the encroachments of the whites was useless, and that their ultimate subjugation was only a matter of time, they were willing to sue for peace. They arranged to meet General Wayne in June, 1795, at Greenville and form a treaty. This plan was carried out and the Greenville treaty, which marked the close of the Indian wars in the West, was the result.

ORGANIZATION OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORY.

After the title to the lands northwest of the Ohio had become vested in the United States, and active preparations for their settlement began to be made, it became necessary for Congress to provide some form of government for the territory. The matter was one calling for the exercise of the highest statesmanship, and various plans were under discussion before a final settlement was reached. At one time Congress, under the influence of the Southern States, voted down Jefferson's proposition excluding slavery forever from the territory. It was likewise proposed to divide the territory into ten states to be known as Sylvania, Michigania, Cheresonisius, Assenispia, Metropotamia, Illinoia, Saratoga, Washington, Polypotamia and Pelisipia, the ultimate arrangement being, however, that there should be no less than three nor more than five states. The instrument which was finally adopted for the government of the Northwest Territory, and ever since popularly known as the "Ordinance of 1787," was, in large measure, the result of the efforts of Rev. Manassah Cutler, before mentioned as being instrumental in securing the grant of lands to the Ohio Company. It was passed on the 13th of July, 1787. Its cardinal principles were: 1st.—The exclusion of slavery from the territory forever; 2nd.—Provision for public schools, giving one township for a seminary and every sixteenth section (this gave one thirty-sixth of all the land for public education); 3rd.—Freedom in religious worship and opinion; 4th.—The equal distribution of estates; and 5th.—Protection in civil liberty. It also provided for the appointment of a governor who should likewise be commander of the militia, a secretary, and for three judges. The governor and the judges were to have the power to adopt and publish such of the laws of other states as should be suitable to their circumstances. Whenever there should be 5,000 free male inhabitants, of full age, in the district, they were to have authority to elect representatives to a General Assembly, which was to consist of the Governor, a Legislative Council and a House of Representatives. There was the further pro-

12C4365

vision that not less than three nor more than five states were to be formed out of the territory, the states to be admitted to equal standing with the original states of the Union whenever they had a population of 60,000, or sooner if consistent with the general interest. The principles embodied in the ordinance were in the form of a compact irrevocable save by consent of both Congress and the states that should be formed out of the territory. It was by reason of this fact that the South was afterwards powerless when they endeavored to have the territory opened to the admission of slavery.

In October, 1787, Congress appointed Gen. Arthur St. Clair, who had been an officer in the Revolution, governor of the new territory, Winthrop Sargeant, secretary, and Samuel H. Parsons, John Armstrong, and James M. Varnum, judges. Subsequently Armstrong declined the appointment and John Cleves Symmes was given his place. Governor St. Clair arrived at the Marietta settlement on July 9, 1788, and immediately began his duties. On the 25th, the first law, relating to the militia, was published, and the next day the governor issued a proclamation creating all the country that had been ceded by the Indians, east of the Scioto River, into the county of Washington. After organizing the militia he next erected the Courts of Probate and Quarter Sessions, and proceeded to appoint civil officers. Rufus Putnam, Benjamin Tupper and Winthrop Sargeant, were made justices of the peace. The 30th day of August, the day the Court of Quarter Sessions was appointed, Archibald Cary, Isaac Pierce and Thomas Lord were also appointed justices. Return Jonathan Meigs was appointed clerk of this Court of Quarter Sessions. Ebenezer Sprout was appointed sheriff of Washington County and also colonel of the militia; William Callis, clerk of the Supreme Court; Rufus Putnam, judge of the Probate Court, and Return J. Meigs, Jr., clerk.

On September 2nd, the first court was held. It is thus described by the *American Pioneer*: "The procession was formed at the Point (where most of the settlers resided), in the following order: The high sheriff, with his drawn sword; the citizens; the officers of the garrison at Fort Harmar; the members of the bar; the supreme judges; the governor and clergymen; the newly appointed judges of the Court of Common Pleas, Generals Rufus Putnam and Benjamin Tupper.

"They marched up the path that had been cleared through the forest to Campus Martius Hall (stockade), where the whole counter-marched, and the judges, Putnam and Tupper, took their seats. The clergyman, Rev. Dr. Cutler, then invoked the divine blessing. The sheriff, Ebenezer Sproat, proclaimed with his solemn 'Oh yes' that a court is open for the administration of even-handed justice to the poor and to the rich, to the guilty and to the innocent, without respect of persons; none to be punished without a trial of their peers, and then in pursuance of the laws and the evidence in the case.

"Although the scene was exhibited thus early in the settlement of the West, few ever equaled it in the dignity and exalted character of its principal participators. Many of them belonged to the history of

our country in the darkest as well as the most splendid period of the Revolutionary war."

About the 1st of January, 1790, Governor St. Clair, with his officers, went to Fort Washington, on the present site of Cincinnati, and established the county of Hamilton, in which was comprised all the country contiguous to the Ohio, from the Hocking River to the Great Miami. He also appointed a corps of civil and military officers and erected a Court of Quarter Sessions. A short time later he likewise organized the county of St. Clair, whose limits, however, were comprised within the present State of Indiana, and Illinois, including the country from the Wabash to the Mississippi. Before the close of 1795 the governor and the judges published sixty-four statutes. Among other things they provided that the common law of England, and all its statutes made previous to the fourth year of James I., should be of full force in the territory. Wayne County was organized in 1796, Jefferson and Adams in 1797, and Ross in 1798.

Wayne County, established by proclamation August 13, 1796, embraced a large extent of territory. It began at the mouth of the Cuyahoga River, and extended south along the western border of Washington County to Fort Lawrence; thence west to the eastern border of Hamilton County; thence north-north-west to the site of Fort Wayne; then west north to the southern shore of Lake Michigan; then along the shore to the north part thereof, including the lands along the streams falling into the lake; then north to the territorial boundary of Lake Superior, and with said boundary through Lakes Huron, St. Clair and Erie to the place of beginning. This vast region, then known as Wayne County, included most of the State of Ohio, the eastern part of the State of Indiana and the whole of Michigan, and it remained as such until the admission of Ohio into the Union as a State in 1893. Then that portion of the so-called Wayne County included in the limits of the State of Ohio, was divided into various counties under the state government. The north portion of Ohio remained unorganized until February 12, 1820. Explorers and hunters had reported that the country was worthless from the fact that it would cost more to remove the heavy timber from the land than the latter would be worth after its removal, and that even after the timber had been taken off the ground was too flat and wet for agriculture.

As has before been stated, the Ordinance of 1787 provided that whenever there should be 5,000 persons in the territory they should be entitled to a representative assembly. On October 29, 1798, Governor St. Clair proclaimed that the population had reached the required number, and ordered an election for the third Monday in December. The representatives thus elected met in Cincinnati, January 22, 1799, and, under the provisions of the Ordinance, nominated ten persons, from whom the President should select five to constitute the Legislative Council. The persons chosen were: Jacob Burnet, James Finley, Henry Vanderburgh, Robert Oliver and David Vance. The Territorial Legislature again met at Cincinnati on the 24th of September, when a great amount of business was done. They repealed some of the laws that were already in force, adopted others, created and filled new offices and devised various plans and methods for carrying on the government of the new territory. The only lawyer in the body was Mr. Burnet, upon whom, by reason of his profession, a

great amount of the work devolved. He seems to have acquitted himself well in the position in which he was thus placed. The whole number of acts passed and approved by the governor was thirty-seven. It is worthy of note that a bill authorizing a lottery was passed by the Council but rejected by the Legislature.

Among other duties which devolved on this session of the Legislature was the election of a delegate to Congress. The choice fell upon William Henry Harrison, the secretary of the territory at that time. He at once resigned his office and proceeded to Philadelphia to take his seat in Congress which was then in session. He was successful in obtaining many important advantages for his constituents, among others a measure subdividing the surveys of the public lands and permitting them to be sold in smaller tracts, thus making it possible for them to be purchased by individuals without first coming into the hands of speculators.

At this first session of the Legislature Governor St. Clair saw fit to veto eleven acts which were passed by it. The greater part of them related to formation of new counties, a right which the governor claimed was vested in him alone. The attitude of the governor served to increase his unpopularity with the people, whose confidence he seems to have lost, in large measure, after his disastrous defeat at the hands of the Indians.

In the year 1800 Congress took up the matter of dividing the Northwest Territory into two parts. The great extent of the territory rendered extremely difficult and unsatisfactory the operations of the government. By reason of the loose administration of justice in its western part, that portion had become a rendezvous for criminals of various character, with the consequent effect of deterring better citizens from settling there. The judiciary was likewise wholly inefficient as regarded civil cases. The far western frontier, being at such a great distance from the seat of both the national and territorial governments, could neither feel for them the attachment or fear their restraint to the extent that a closer relation would establish. In consequence, on the 7th of May an act was passed dividing the territory, the line of division being "a line beginning at the Ohio, opposite to the mouth of the Kentucky River, and running thence to Fort Recovery, and thence north until it intersects the territorial line between the United States and Canada." The same form of government was provided for the new territory as prevailed in the old. Chillicothe was made the seat of government for the old territory and St. Clair retained as governor, while St. Vincent's on the Wabash River, was made the capital of the "Indiana Territory," and William Henry Harrison appointed its governor.

ORGANIZATION OF THE STATE OF OHIO.

The second session of the General Assembly was held at Chillicothe in 1801. Governor St. Clair had, meanwhile, been growing more and more unpopular. The abuse heaped on the governor and the Legislature at Chillicothe became so great that they decided to remove the capital from that place to Cincinnati. Out of this agitation, however, and the general discontent with the governor, there had been rapidly arising a general sentiment in favor of the formation of a State government. This sentiment was in a minority, however, so far as the General Assembly was concerned. A measure was introduced there proposing that the Ordinance of 1787 be so changed that the Scioto River, together with a line drawn from its intersec-

tion with the Indian boundary to the western extremity of the Reserve, should be the western limit of the most eastern State to be formed out of the territory. To protest against this proposition the minority sent Thomas Worthington to Washington. While he was on his way a resolution introduced into the Legislature for choosing a committee to address Congress with regard to the proposed state was defeated. A further attempt providing for taking the census of the territory was postponed by the Council.

Worthington, however, was successful in his mission to Congress, and on the 30th of April that body authorized the calling of a state convention for the purpose of forming a constitution, provided it was found expedient. "The act of Congress, providing for the admission of the new state into the Union, offered certain propositions to the people. These were, first, that Section Sixteen in each township, or, where that section had been disposed of, other contiguous and equivalent lands, should be granted to the inhabitants for the use of schools; second, that thirty-eight sections of land, where salt springs had been found, of which one township was situated on the Scioto, one section on the Muskingum, and one section in the United States Military Tract, should be granted to the state, never to be sold or leased, however, for a longer term than ten years; and third, that one twentieth of the proceeds of the public lands sold within the state, should be applied to the construction of roads from the Atlantic, to and through the same." These propositions were offered on the condition that the convention should provide, by ordinance, that all lands sold by the United States after the 30th day of June, 1802, should be exempt from taxation by the state for five years after sale.

The convention met at Chillicothe on the 1st day of November, 1802. While it believed the consideration offered to the state hardly sufficient for the tax exemption required, it decided to accept the conditions of Congress, providing their propositions should be sufficiently enlarged "so as to vest in the state, for the use of schools, Section Sixteen in each township sold by the United States, and three other tracts of land, equal in quantity, respectively, to one thirty-sixth of the Virginia Reservation, of the United States Military Tract, and of the Connecticut Reserve, and to give three per centum of the proceeds of the public lands sold within the state, to be applied under the direction of the Legislature, to roads in Ohio." Congress acceded to this modification and there was thus nothing to prevent the formation of the new state.

The time for the meeting of the General Assembly came while the constitutional convention was in session, but, owing to the probability that the territorial government would so soon be superseded by that of the state, they deferred meeting. On the 29th of November the convention having framed a constitution and completed its labors, adjourned. The constitution, though never submitted to the people, was submitted to Congress and accepted by that body, and an act passed admitting Ohio to the Union, February 19, 1803. The constitution framed by this convention continued in force until the adoption, in 1851, of the present one. The territorial government ended and the state government began on March 1, 1803.

By the new constitution it was provided that the first elections under the new government should be held the second Tuesday of January, 1803. Accordingly at that time Edward Tiffin was chosen governor and Jeremiah Morrow

sent to Congress. A General Assembly was also elected, which met on March 3rd and chose the following officers: Michael Baldwin, speaker of the House, and Nathaniel Massie of the Senate; William Creighton, Jr., secretary of state; Colonel Thomas Gibson, auditor; William McFarland, treasurer; Return J. Meigs, Jr., Samuel Huntington and William Spriggs, judges of the Supreme Court; Francis Dunlevy, Wyllys Silliman and Calvin Pease, president judges of the First, Second and Third Districts, and Thomas Worthington and John Smith, United States Senators. The Assembly also passed such laws as were necessary. Up to the time of the adoption of the state constitution there had been organized the following counties: Washington, July 27, 1788; Hamilton, January 2, 1790; Adams, July 10, 1797; Jefferson, July 29, 1797; Ross, August 20, 1798; Clermont, Fairfield and Trumbull, December 9, 1800; Belmont, September 7, 1801. Eight additional counties were created by the Assembly at its first session, viz.: Gallia, Scioto, Butler, Warren, Greene, Montgomery, Franklin and Columbiana.

The seat of government was first located at Chillicothe. In the year 1810 an act was passed changing its location to Zanesville, but at the next session of the General Assembly it was again taken back to Chillicothe, and commissioners appointed to determine upon a definite location. It is said that they first reported in favor of Dublin, a small town on the Scioto about fourteen miles above Columbus. At the session of the Assembly of 1813-14, however, the proposal of parties owning the site of Columbus was accepted and in 1816, the first meeting of the Assembly was held there.

CHAPTER II.

THE ABORIGINES.

Prehistoric Races—Pre-Glacial Man—The Mound Builders—The Red Race.

Hancock County may have been the home of man before the glacial period. There seems to be evidence, at least, that Ohio was occupied by human beings prior to this great geological epoch. Paleoliths have been found in the Little Miami Valley similar and under similar conditions to those unearthed by Dr. Abbott in the glacial terraces of the Delaware River. As to whether pre-glacial man ever had a home in Hancock County, however, in our present state of knowledge, could be nothing more than a matter of profitless speculation.

That the Mound-Builder lived here there is abundant evidence. The State of Ohio itself, from the standpoint of pre-historic occupation, is one of the most interesting portions of the entire globe. In no other equal area have so many of the Mound-Builder's works, consisting of fortifications, effigies, mounds, etc., been found. On this point we quote from the recent work of Gerard Fowke on the "Archeological History of Ohio." "The total number of mounds in Ohio has been estimated at ten thousand. This is probably under rather than over the correct figure; for while they are almost unknown in the northwestern counties and are comparatively scarce in some parts of the rugged hill lands of the south and southeast and along the main watersheds, there is scarcely a township in any other part where they are not found. In the neighborhood of every stream in the southern half of the State, except some of those flowing through rough or swampy country, the surface is so dotted with them that signals could be transmitted from one to another for a hundred miles or more. There is scarcely a point along the Scioto below Circleville, or on either Miami in the lower half of its course, or in the valley of any tributary to these streams, where one may not be within a few minutes' ride of some permanent evidence of aboriginal habitation. The same is true of the Cuyahoga and some other rivers belonging to the Lake Erie basin. On the summits of steep hills; in bottom lands subject to overflow, on every terrace bordering a stream; on plateaus and uplands; wherever there is cultivable or naturally drained land, a good point of observation, an ample supply of water, a convenient topography for

trails—the Mound-Builder has left his mark. Even in places where it would seem a nomad would not care to go, except as led by excitement or the necessities of the chase, and then for as brief a time as possible, such evidence is not lacking of pre-historic residence, or, at least, sojourning."

"The most notable mounds in the State are: The Serpent Mound, in Adams County, which is more than a thousand feet in length; Fort Ancient, in Warren County, the length of whose surrounding embankment is about five miles, and estimated to contain 628,800 cubic yards of material; Fort Hill, in Highland County, enclosing an area of thirty-five acres; Graded Way, in Pike County; and fortifications at Newark covering over a thousand acres. The largest mound in the State, at Miamisburg, is sixty-eight feet in height and 800 feet in circumference at the base."

While Hancock County possesses none of these more important of the works of the Mound-Builders, and while there is nothing characteristic in the mounds and earthworks found in the county to distinguish them from those in many other parts of the State, yet there are many interesting evidences that these people once lived within the limits of the county.

The tumuli in this part of the state were each about five feet high and thirty feet in diameter, and upon being opened exhibited the same evidence of construction and contents as previously stated. Three of these mounds were located northeast of Cannonsburg in Union Township; two on Section 11, and one on Section 13, in Orange Township; one on Section 21, Liberty Township, and one on Section 11 in Delaware Township. This list has heretofore been published in papers and histories but in addition to this list, there is a very distinct mound still in existence on Section 18, Allen Township; and taking the Archaeological Society as authority (vol. 5, p. 272), there are two mounds in Blanchard Township and one in Pleasant. Those in Orange and Union Townships were opened by William M. McKinley and LaFayette Ballard, who found human remains in each mound, also flint arrow heads and other implements of stone, some of which are in the possession of the McKinleys. No doubt many more mounds existed in other townships of Hancock County, which the plow has long ago obliterated. Numerous evidence of this strange people cannot be looked for here, but that they once inhabited the valley of the Blanchard is beyond all doubt.

The Mound-Builders have long since passed away. Aside from the earthworks which they constructed and the relics found within them, no source of information remains to us by which to determine anything as to their character, history or fate. Even the Indians themselves had practically no traditions concerning them. All the research and investigation that has been made has led to no definite or reliable conclusions. Theories have been propounded only to be discredited by later discoveries. Whether the Mound-Builders were a race distinct in themselves, ultimately conquered and exterminated by the Indians, or whether they were simply the progenitors of the Indian tribes, are questions which remain unanswered and are destined, perhaps, always to be so.

THE RED RACE.

Of the successors to the Mound-Builders, however, considerably more is known. Indeed it has not been much over a hundred years since the only residents of Hancock County were the red men, and a hundred years is a period comparatively brief when we consider the length of time that has elapsed since the date where historical knowledge begins. It is scarcely correct, however, to speak of the Red Men as residents. The term implies a more permanent attachment to a locality than could be attributed to them. With their nomadic habits, they were not long confined to a single place, and we find the various tribes wandering over widely extended areas.

When the white man first came to the Ohio Valley he found a number of tribes inhabiting the Northwest Territory, among them the Delawares, Shawnees, Miamis, Mingoes, Munsees, Wyandots, Senecas, and perhaps others.

The Delawares took their name from the Delaware River on the banks of which they were located when first discovered by the Europeans, and which, in turn, took its name from Lord De la Warre, who first explored it. Their real name, however, was Lenni Lenape. According to the traditions of the Lenni Lenape, their organization antedated that of most of the other Indian tribes, also that they had once occupied the western part of the country, but, crossing the Mississippi, had gradually moved eastward until they had taken up a more permanent abode on the river which gave them their English name. In the course of their migration eastward they had exterminated the Allegans who occupied the principal ranges of the Allegheny Mountains. They had formed an alliance with the Iroquois by whom they were afterward subdued and reduced to "women." Whatever truth there may have been in their traditions, however, when the European settler came, they were found on the banks of the Delaware.

William Penn met them in friendly intercourse and negotiated with them a treaty by which he bought their lands, and by which both parties agreed that the same moral law should apply to both races alike. This treaty was kept unbroken by the Delawares for sixty years. So favorable was the impression made upon them by Penn's fairness that the name "Quaker" came, with them, to be synonymous with "good men."

At the time of the treaty with Penn, however, or shortly afterwards, the Delawares were brought into subjection to the Iroquois. At the Lancaster treaty in 1744, in the presence of a large assembly of tribes, the Iroquois denied the right of the Delawares to sell their lands. "Canassatego, an Iroquois chief, upbraided them in public council for some former act of this kind. Speaking in a strain of mixed irony and arrogance, he told them not to reply to his words but to leave the council in silence. He peremptorily ordered them to quit the section of the country where they then resided and to move to the banks of the Susquehanna." Accordingly, the Delawares, cowed into submission, left the banks of the Delaware where their home had been for many years and turned to the West, from which, according to their traditions, they had formerly come. It is said that at the opening of the Revolution the Delawares shook off the Iroquois yoke and that, a few years later, at a public council, the Iroquois admitted that they were "no longer women."

About 1650 the Eries held full sway of the northern portion of what is now Ohio. They

lived along the southern border of the lake which bears their name, but being conquered by the Iroquois five years later, most of them fell on the field of battle, while the remainder became incorporated with other tribes, and drifted southward and westward. In the early part of the seventeenth century the Shawnees were living along the Ohio Valley, but they were dispersed by the Iroquois, and dispossessed of their happy and prolific hunting grounds. For many years before and after the year 1700 this entire wilderness was inhabited by the remnants of defeated tribes, who were permitted to remain through the leniency of their conquerers.

In 1750, however, we find something like permanent occupation in northwest and other portions of what is now Ohio, by the Wyandots, Delawares, Shawnees, Miamis, Munsees, Ottawas and Mingoes. The Wyandots then inhabited the valley of the Sandusky River and its tributaries, and dwelt around Sandusky Bay, and streams flowing into the lake. The Delawares and Munsees occupied the Muskingum Valley. The Shawnees lived along the Scioto, from the Ohio to the Scioto marsh, and also had a few scattering towns along the Miami and Mad Rivers. The Miamis occupied the territory drained by the head waters of the Maumee, Wabash and Great Miami Rivers, from the Loramie portage to Ft. Wayne and down the Maumee Valley. The Ottawas were scattered along the lower Blanchard, Auglaize and Maumee Rivers, and around the western end of Lake Erie, while the Mingoes were settled in the eastern and northeastern portion of the state.

On the 29th of September, 1817, a treaty was made at the foot of the Maumee Rapids, with the Wyandots, Ottawas, Shawnees, Delawares, Senecas, Pottawotomies and Chippewas, and all lands in this state remaining in possession of the Indians were ceded to the United States. Certain reservations were set aside by this treaty for the use of the several Indian tribes, to which large additions were made by a treaty concluded at St. Mary's, Ohio, with the Wyandots, Senecas, Shawnees and Ottawas, September 17, 1819.

The Wyandot reservation embraced a tract of twelve miles square near Upper Sandusky, Ohio; one mile square on Broken Sword Creek; 55,680 acres lying on the north and east of Upper Sandusky Reserve, and 16,000 acres surrounding the Big Spring at the end of the marsh, in what is now the southwest corner of Seneca County and the line into Big Lick Township, Hancock County, the last mentioned tract being for the use of the Wyandots residing at Solomon's Town on the Blanchards fork. The reservations located in Logan, Auglaize, Seneca, Hancock and Sandusky Counties were purchased from the Indians in 1831. In March, 1842, the Wyandots ceded their land to the government. The territory embraced in Hancock County lay between the Indian towns in what is now Seneca and Wyandot counties, and those located on the Blanchard, Auglaize, and Maumee Rivers. It was a portion of the hunting grounds of the Wyandots and Ottawas, the former of whom had a small village on the site of Findlay, and cultivated corn along the river within the present limits of the city. Howe, in his "Historical Collections," speaking of the settlement of Wilson Vance at Fort Findlay, in 1821, says: "There were then some ten or fifteen Wyandot families in the place, who had made improvements. They were a temperate, fine-looking people, and friendly to the first settlers." How-

ever, some histories and authorities have since refuted this statement. As a tribe they were practically all gone in 1818, but for years after, scattering remnants were still located in Hancock County.

According to tradition there were two Indian villages in this county, and both were located on the banks of the Blanchard. In 1815, there were eight or ten families of friendly Wyandots living around and in the blockhouses of Fort Findlay. They tilled two fields, one above and the other below the fort, on the south bank of the Blanchard. Kuqua was the chief, and one of his sons, Tree-top-in-the-Water, died in a cabin west of the fort before the Indians removed to the Big Spring reservation. Six or seven miles down the river, the Wyandots had another village, called Indian Green. This was a clearing about twelve acres square, which had apparently been under cultivation, since an orchard of plum trees was found near the part of the clearing occupied by the graveyard. It has been claimed that earthworks ran along the brows of the hill overlooking the river, but recent investigation does not fully bear out this statement. A man by the name of Ellison settled on the clearing and was found out to have robbed the dead braves of their jewels, which were to have given them the means of purchasing a clear title to their share of plunder in the Happy Hunting Grounds. The Indians, who kept a close watch on the dead, soon discovered his meddling and made it expedient for the man to leave the county immediately. From various relics which have been discovered at this place, there may have been a battle of some sort at Indian Green. In fact, some historians have gone so far as to assert that General Wayne gave the Indians at this place a startling surprise on his way to and from the Battle of the Maumee in 1794. However, this is in very much doubt, as Wayne left Greenville and started north, where he established Fort Recovery; from thence he went to the junction of the Maumee and Auglaize Rivers and established Fort Defiance; thence down the Maumee to the rapids, where he defeated the Indians and returned to Greenville. It is probable that either Wayne's entire army or some portion of it came far enough east on their march back from the "Battle of the Maumee" to reach "Indian Green" and may here have had an encounter with the red men, doubtless to the disadvantage of the latter.

There have been statements made to the effect that an Indian village was located on the site of Mt. Blanchard, which may be considered as probably true, as there were Indians in the vicinity of Mt. Blanchard as late as 1838. They were probably the remnants of some of the tribes who at different times and in different localities held sway over this vast wilderness. But with civilization's resistless march, fewer and fewer became the red men in this section of the country, until now there is no remaining vestige to mark their former habitations, except as some weapon or ornament has uncovered its form from a dark and lonely bed in Mother Earth, and fallen into the hands of the relic hunter of today.

CHAPTER III.

FIRST ORGANIZATION OF HANCOCK COUNTY.

The County Organized—Findlay Township Organized—First Elections—First Officials—Erection of the Townships.

On the 12th of February, 1820, the general assembly of Ohio passed an "Act for the Erection of Certain Counties Named Therein." In that act we find the following reference to Hancock County: * * * "Fifth to include Townships One and Two, north of the forty-first degree of north latitude (base line) and One and Two south of the same line, in the Ninth, Tenth, Eleventh and Twelfth Ranges from east to west, and to be known by the name of Hancock County." Section Second of the same act provided, "That the counties of Hancock, Henry, Putnam, Paulding and Williams shall be attached to the county of Wood" with the seat of government at Perrysburg.

The following order was made by the commissioners of Wood County, March 4, 1822: "Ordered by the board, that the Township of Waynesfield, within the jurisdiction of the county of Wood be co-extensive with the boundaries of Wood and Hancock, and to include the same." On May 18, 1823, the commissioners of Wood County ordered that, "So much of the township of Waynesfield as is included in the unorganized county of Hancock, be set off and organized, and the same is hereby organized into a township by the name of Findlay, and that the election of township officers be held on the first day of July, A. D. 1823, at the house of Wilson Vance, in said township. Of this proceedings no record is known, but the first record of the township is that of the election of April 5, 1824, at which time there were 18 votes cast, and that Job Chamberlain, Wilson Vance and Jacob Poe were elected trustees; Matthew Reighly, clerk, and Wilson Vance assessor; Phillip McKinnis, constable; John Hunter and John Gardner, fence viewers; Robert McKinnis and William Moreland, overseers of the poor; and Job Chamberlain, Sr., treasurer. The treasurer's office in those days was practically a sinecure, as the total amount of tax for 1826 was but $56.12. Of course the salary attached to it was small.

It was not long, however, owing to the rapidity with which the different townships were being settled, before a separate county organization became necessary, and accordingly on the 21st day of January, 1828, the General Assembly of the State of Ohio

passed an act entitled, "An Act to Organize the County of Hancock," of which the following are some of its provisions:

"Sec. 1. That the county of Hancock as heretofore laid off, and the same shall be and is hereby organized into a separate and distinct county, and suits and prosecutions which shall be pending, and all crimes which shall have been committed within said county of Hancock previous to its organization, shall be prosecuted to final judgment and execution within the county of Wood, in the same manner they would have been had the county of Hancock not been organized; and the sheriff, coroner and constables of Wood County shall execute within the county of Hancock such process as shall be necessary to carry into effect such suits, prosecutions and judgments; and the treasurer of Wood County shall collect all such taxes as shall have been levied and imposed within the county of Hancock previous to the taking effect of this act."

"Sec. 2. That all justices of the peace and constables within the said county of Hancock shall continue to execute the duties of their respective offices in the same manner as if the county of Hancock had remained attached to the county of Wood."

"Sec. 3. That on the first Monday of April next the legal voters within the county of Hancock shall assemble within their respective townships at the place of holding elections, and shall elect their several county officers, who shall hold their offices until the next annual election.

"This act shall take effect from and after the first day of March next."

In accordance with the provisions of this act, the voters of Hancock County met in Findlay and proceeded to hold an election. There were 74 votes cast, and officers were elected as follows: Don Alonzo Hamlin, sheriff; Thomas Slight, coroner; Matthew Reighly, auditor; Joshua Hedges, treasurer; William Hackney, assessor; Godfrey Wolford, John Long and John P. Hamilton, commissioners.

ERECTION OF THE TOWNSHIPS.

In order to make correct surveys and locate lands prior to the settlement of the state or of the formation of counties or townships, or the subdivision of townships into sections, the general government found it necessary to have a certain and fixed point from which townships and ranges might be counted. The Ohio survey was made in 1819 and 1820, after the fixing by the Government of the first principal meridian (as it was called), which meridian commences at the mouth of the Great Miami River, running from thence north on the line between Ohio and Indiana to the Michigan line. A line was also established running east and west on the 41st parallel of north latitude, and called the base line. This base line runs directly through the center of Hancock County, three miles south of Sandusky street, dividing it into two parts, north and south. The townships are numbered north and south from the base line; those bordering on the line are called township number one, north and south—number two coming next, and so on. The ranges, which include an original township in width, or six miles, are numbered from the principal meridian, east, beginning with number one, at the Indiana line and numbering east. Hancock County is in Ranges Nine, Ten, Eleven and Twelve.

A search of the records has failed to reveal the date or definite boundaries of the sub-divisions of Hancock County prior to 1829; however, the various entries on the

commissioners' journal establish the fact that the county was divided into three townships, soon after the independent organization, namely: Findlay, Amanda and Welfare, of which Findlay was much the largest.

In response to a petition from a large majority of the citizens of Welfare Township, situated in the southeastern portion of the county, the name was changed from Welfare to that of Delaware.

December 7, 1829, the original surveyed township No. 1, south in Range 11 east, was set off into a body politic and corporate and called Jackson, in honor of Andrew Jackson, this change reducing the dimensions of Findlay Township, which previously occupied two-thirds or more of the county in the northern, western and southwestern portions.

The next change was made December 6, 1830, when the county commissioners divided the township of Findlay in the following manner: Beginning at the southwest corner of Section 31, in Township 1 north, in Range 12; thence north to the northwest corner of Section 6, in Township 2, in Range 12; thence west to the northwest corner of Section 4 in Range 11; thence south to the southwest corner of Section 33 in Township 1 north, in Range 11; thence east to the place of beginning; which bounds shall be a separate township and shall be known and designated by the name of Marion. And in the next place, commencing at the southeast corner of Section 32, Township 1 north, Range 11 east; thence north to the northeast corner of Section 5, in Township 2 north, in Range 11; thence west to the northwest corner of Section 2, in Range 10; thence south to the southwest corner of Section 35, in Township 2 south; thence east to the southeast corner of Section 36, in Range 10; thence north to the southeast corner of Section 36, in Township 1 north; thence east to the place of beginning; which shall be a body corporate and politic, and retain the name of Findlay.

And in the next place, commencing at the southeast corner of Section 34, in Township 2 south, in Range 10; thence north to the northeast corner of Section 3, Township 2 north; thence west to the northwest corner of Section 6, in Range 9; thence south to the southwest corner of Section 39, in Township 2 south; thence east to the place of beginning; in which bounds shall be made a separate township and be known and designated by the name of Liberty.

March 7, 1831, agreeable to a petition of sundry inhabitants of Hancock County, the original surveyed Townships Nos. 1 and 2 south, in Range 10 east, were set off to be known and designated as Van Buren Township.

On the same day the county commissioners also ordered that hereafter the township of Amanda shall consist of the original Township 1 south, in Range 12 east, and Sections 34 and 35 in the original surveyed Township 1 north, Range 12 east; also that the original surveyed Township 1 north, in Range 12 east, except Sections 34 and 35, shall hereafter be known and organized by the name of Biglick; also the original surveyed Township 1 north, in Range 9 east, shall be known and organized by the name of Blanchard.

March 5, 1832, the county commissioners set off the original surveyed Township No. 2 north, in Range 12 east, into a body corporate and politic, and named it Washington Township.

June 4, 1832, the county commissioners set

off the original surveyed Township No. 1 south, in Range 9 east, into a body corporate and politic, and named the same Union Township.

December 3, 1832, the county commissioners off the original surveyed township No. 1 south, in Range 10 east, into a body corporate and politic, and named the same Eagle Township.

March 4, 1833, the county commissioners set off the original surveyed Township No. 2 north, Range 11 east, into a body corporate and politic and to be known by the name of Cass. On the same date it was also ordered that the original surveyed Township No. 2 north, Range 10 east, be set off into a separate township and named Portage.

June 3, 1833, the county commissioners ordered that Biglick Township shall include all of the original surveyed Township No. 1 north, Range 12 east.

March 2, 1835, the county commissioners ordered that the original surveyed Township No. 2 north, in Range 9 east, be set off into a separate and distinct township and called Pleasant. Also that the original surveyed Township No. 2 south, Range 12 east, be set off into a separate and distinct township and called Richland.

December 5, 1836, the county commissioners ordered that the original surveyed Township No. 2 south, Range 9 east, be set off into a separate and distinct township and called Orange.

June 5, 1838, on the petition of Andrew Thompson and others, it was ordered by the commissioners that Sections 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35 and 36, Biglick Township, and Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 13 and 14, Amanda Township, be and the same is hereby set off into a separate township, politic and corporate, and named Ridge.

June 1, 1840, the county commissioners ordered that Sections 5, 6, 7, 8, 17, 18, 19, 20, 29, 30, 31 and 32, in Township No. 2 south, Range 11 east, and Sections numbered 1, 2, 11, 12, 13, 14, 23, 24, 25, 26, 35 and 36, in Township No. 2 south, Range 10 east, be set off and created as a new township to be called Madison.

February 3, 1845, the Legislature of Ohio passed an act organizing the county of Wyandot, and Sections 1, 2, 11, 12, 13, 14, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 34, 35 and 36, in Township 1 south, Range 12 east, and Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 32, 33, 34, 35 and 36 in Township 2 south, Range 12 east, were taken from Hancock County and formed a portion of Wyandot County.

March 5, 1845, the county commissioners ordered that sections 6, 7, 18, 19, 30 and 31, in Township 2 south, Range 12 east, be attached to Delaware Township; also that Sections 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35 and 36, in Township 1 north, Range 12 east, be attached to Biglick Township; also that Sections 3, 4, 5 and 6, in Township 1 south, Range 12 east, and Sections 1, 12, 13, 24, 25 and 36, in Township 1 south, Range 11 east, be attached to Amanda Township.

June 3, 1850, the county commissioners ordered that a new township be erected out of the following territory called Allen Township, the said Township of Allen to be comprised of Sections 5, 6, 7, 8, 17, 18, 19, 20, 29, 30, 31 and 32, of Township No. 2 north, Range 11 east, and Sections 1, 2, 11, 12, 13, 14, 23, 24, 25, 26, 35 and 36, of Township No. 2 north, Range 10 east, thus forming the county as it appears at the present day.

CHAPTER IV.

INDEPENDENT ORGANIZATION OF THE COUNTY.

First White Settlers—Hull's March—Fort Findlay—Murder of the Thomases—A Pioneer's Letter—Observance of the Golden Rule Among the Pioneers—Mrs. Ebberly's Narrative—First Election Under Independent County Organization—Poll Book of Election and County Officers.

According to the most authentic account, the first white settlement in the territory now embraced within the limits of Hancock County, was made at the present site of the town of Findlay, about the year 1815. We have a tradition to the effect, however, that a man by the name of Thorp or Tharp, came here with the soldiers, who occupied Fort Findlay in the War of 1812-15, and remained here after its evacuation, either living alone or with the Indians, but not much is known of him. A young soldier who came to Fort Findlay, by the name of Edward Bright, tiring of the monotony of fort life often wandered through the unbroken forests then covering the entire country, and especially did he take frequent strolls on the higher grounds of what is now Marion Township. Young Bright took a fancy to the land in Section 11 in that township because it was higher and not swampy, as was much of the ground at that time, and he marked the trees in that neighborhood for future selection of a farm. Ten years after, or about 1824, he returned from his home in Fairfield County and entered 160 acres of land in Section 11, moved onto it and cleared it up. He was industrious, spending very little for luxuries and none too much for necessaries; in fact he ate very simple food and wore scanty clothing. At about the time of the breaking out of the Civil War he bred and sold many fine cattle and sold them at a high price, and people thought him possessed of much gold, but after his death no money was found on his person or about the house, and it was believed at that time, and is to this day that he buried his treasure in the ground and never revealed its hiding-place. He was a very quiet man, discreet in his conversation but not discourteous in his manners. In his elderly days he was known as "Uncle Neddie" or "Old Neddie." He never married. His scantily appointed cabin stood on the site of Dr. J. C. Trich's beautiful log cabin about four miles out on the Tiffin road.

To Benjamin Cox and his family belongs the honor of being the first white family to settle in this vicinity. Upon their arrival, naught but an unbroken forest, save in the

immediate vicinity of the old fort, greeted them. Indians and wild beasts roamed the woods, with no neighbors within many days' journey, perhaps. After making this solitude their home for a few years, the family removed to Wood County, where some of them were still living in 1882, though at present no trace of any of them can be discovered. One of the daughters had a knowledge of both the Ottawa and Wyandotte tongues and sometimes acted as interpreter between the whites and the Indians.

But the Coxes had not been here long when others, through a spirit of adventure, or restless desire for new scenes, came and formed settlements. Some were attracted by the richness of the soil, or perhaps a greater part by the abundance of game, hunting and trapping wild animals being their main occupation. Or perhaps with imaginations reaching out to the future, they pictured to themselves the exceeding loveliness, and fruitfulness of the land, when redeemed from the wilderness, and were hopefully constrained to make this their abiding place.

Thus, by whatever motive actuated, they came and formed settlements, cleared the forests, built themselves cabins, constructed roads such as they were, and laid the foundation deep and permanent, for our present great prosperity and wealth, transmitting to their children a rich and beautiful inheritance. Little did they then think or even dream of the wealth of petroleum and gas laying a quarter of a mile beneath their feet, and which, in its development brought millions of wealth to Hancock and Wood Counties. But even if it had been discovered, there would not have been the money or facilities to have developed the discovery.

HULL'S MARCH.

An exciting event occurred about the middle of June, 1812, when the army, under Gen. Hull, left Urbana, Champaign County, Ohio, and passed north through the present counties of Logan, Hardin, Hancock and Wood, over what was known during, and after the war, as "Hull's Trail," into Michigan. This army cut a road through the unbroken wilderness, on their route building Fort McArthur, on the Scioto River in Hardin County, and Fort Findlay, on the Blanchard River in Hancock County. In the same summer General Edmund W. Tupper, of Gallia County, enlisted about 1,000 men for six months' service, mainly from Gallia, Lawrence and Jackson Counties, who, under orders of General Winchester, marched from Urbana north by "Hull's Trail" to the foot of the Maumee Rapids. The enemy attacked Tupper's forces, but were driven off with considerable loss. They returned to Detroit, and the Americans, under Tupper, marched back to Fort McArthur.

FORT FINDLAY.

The Fort at Findlay was erected by Col. James Findlay, under orders from General Hull, and was named in honor of the Colonel. It was a stockade of about fifty yards square, with a blockhouse at each corner, and a ditch in front. tI stood on the south side of the Blanchard River, just west of the present iron bridge and was used as a depot for military stores. The Fort was garrisoned by a company under

the command of Captain Arthur Thomas, who lived at King's Creek, three miles from Urbana. So far as known, there were no battles fought at Findlay, and the garrison duty was, no doubt, monotonous and irksome. After the close of the war, Captain Thomas' company returned to Urbana. On their journey home, the Captain and his son lost their horses, and separated from the rest of the company in search of them. They encamped at the Big Spring, near Solomonstown, about five miles from Bellefontaine, and the next morning were found murdered and scalped. Their bodies were taken to Urbana by a deputation of citizens. In connection with this account of the fate of Captain Thomas, the following letter to D. B. Beardsley, author of a former History of Hancock County (1881), and to which we have already acknowledged our obligations, will prove interesting:

MARION, IOWA, Dec. 6, 1875.

D. B. Beardsley, Esq.

DEAR SIR:—I saw in a sketch of the early history of Hancock County, Ohio, as read by you at the Second Annual Picnic and Reunion of the Pioneers of your county, published in the Findlay Jeffersonian, an account of Captain Arthur Thomas and son, that were killed by the Indians at the Big Springs, some five miles from Bellefontaine, and thinking I might furnish you an item or two, concluded to drop you a line. My father was stationed at a block house called Menary, about two miles northwest from Bellefontaine, there being a small company of soldiers, I think commanded by Lieut. John Kelley. The object seemed to be to guard and keep in bounds some pet Indians that the Government had in care, and was furnishing supplies to through an agent by the name of McPherson.

On the morning after the murder of Thomas and his son, the word was brought to the company, and a deputation was sent out after them, among whom was my father (John Rathbun) and when they reached the spot, and found them in the broiling sun, being scalped, and the blood oozing from their heads, he thought it the most sickening sight he ever beheld; and made him declare vengeance against the tawny tribe, pet or no pet. He always said that it was the pets that did the deed, for as they were returning with the men to the block house, three of the half-breeds came in sight armed and painted, contrary to orders. The horsemen took after them, and succeeded in stopping them, but the Commander would not let the Post Guard come up in shooting distance, for he knew there would have been three red-skins less in double quick.

The officers let them go with some good promises on their part, not to be found there thus arrayed again. After reaching the block house, they (the Thomases) were put into the hands of the citizens, that conveyed them to their homes and final resting place, as you have it recorded. At Roundhead there was a large village of those pets or friendly Indians, as they were called, and an order was sent out from the Post, to have them come in on a certain day, but the day came and none made their appearance; the second day none. The third day a deputation started after them, but they met them in squads coming in. They were old men, women and children, all the warriors had gone to fight for the British, except a few young men that had charge of affairs. When they reached the village, all had left but one, and he dodged out of sight in a moment's time. About all that was accomplished, was to show that while we were taking care of their families, the warriors were fighting against us.

Time passes on, the war ended, and when I reached my fourteenth year, I went to visit an uncle that lived on what was called the Blockhouse farm. The house was in rather a dilapidated condition, the roof off and half the upper story had been removed. It brought to

FINDLAY HOSPITAL AND HOME, FINDLAY

HANCOCK COUNTY COURT HOUSE, FINDLAY

POST OFFICE, FINDLAY

COUNTY JAIL, FINDLAY

mind many incidents that I had heard my father relate thirty-six years ago. I left the place of my nativity and settled in what was called the Black Hawk purchase, or Iowa. Had not been here long before I heard of the Thomas family having settled at Cascade, where the son of a brother of the Captain, and son alluded to, owned a fine mill property, and in the course of some three years I went to his mill, where I saw the whole family, the widow, her son and three or four daughters, all married except the widow. She never married, or at least not to that time. Thomas sold his mill and went further west, and I have lost sight of him. I always like to cherish in memory those who have suffered in their country's cause.

But I will close,

Yours in Pioneer Friendship,

NELSON RATHBUN.

The Greers, Lakes, Elders and Hamlins formed a settlement at the present site of Mt. Blanchard, in one of the most beautiful and fertile portions of the county, while Wilson Vance, and Carlin, and Hamilton and Johnston and the Chamberlains, with others, formed the settlement of Findlay and vicinity, and, like the others, were not disappointed in the fertility of the soil or in the natural advantages of the location. The McKinnis, the Poes, the Fishels and other kindred spirits, formed a settlement down the river from Findlay, in a most beautiful part of the county, and it was not long until these families of hardy stalwart men and women were known for their hospitality and bravery. The Moreland, Helms and a few other families formed a settlement in the south part of the county, where they resided many years, generally respected for their honesty and fair dealing.

A settlement was formed still further down the river than was the McKinnis settlement, by the Dukes brothers, John, Richard and Lewis, and by the Moffitts, and the Downings, and Groves, and Davis. These men, all farmers, were fortunate in the selection of their lands. and today there is not a richer or more beautiful farming region in north-western Ohio than is this same Dukes settlement. Todd, and Kalb, and Algire and other families settled at or near the site of the present village of McComb. At this time no one thought of any law but that of doing to others as they would others should do unto them—of dealing honestly with all men, of fulfilling every promise, of redeeming every pledge, of rendering to his neighbor, without hope of fee or reward, that assistance which was necessary—a happy state of society, but which was necessarily succeeded in time by the erection of political divisions and the machinery of organized government.

We present here, an interesting account of early days, the narrative of Mrs. Eberly, the daughter of Benjamin Cox, the pioneer already mentioned. The facts she gives were communicated by her to the late D. B. Beardsley, in an interview which he had with her in the summer of 1880, at which time she was residing with her husband about one mile east of Portage in Wood County.

MRS. EBERLY'S NARRATIVE.

"I am the daughter of Benjamin Cox, and was born in Green County, Ohio, in 1806, and when about nine years old, my father removed his family to Findlay, in Hancok County. Our family was the first white family to settle in that county. My sister Lydia, born in 1817, was the first white child born in that county. We lived in a hewed-log house, located where the brick residence of the late Wilson Vance now stands, on the south bank of the river, and on the east side of Main street. When Mr.

Vance came to the place, we had to move into a log cabin a little east of the hewed-log house, into which Mr. Vance took his family.

"My father was engaged in farming—if the cultivation of a small tract of cleared land surrounding our cabin could be called farming—and keeping a public house. Shortly after we came to the place, Hamilton, Moreland and Slight came. Some other families came in, stayed a short time and then left. For to be candid about it, Findlay was but two or three block houses, and some pickets, the remains of Ft. Findlay, were standing when we came. The Ottawa Indians made frequent visits to the place, as it was stated that they were in some way related to the Wyandots.

"Before we left Findlay, the Morelands, Hamiltons, Slights, Chamberlains, Frakes, McKinnises, Simpsons, Vances and Rileys had moved to the county. Hamilton and some others had started a settlement above the town, and Frakes and the McKinnises, below the town. I was at that time too young and too busy to make the acquaintance of many of these persons. But I shall never forget Susy Frakes—as she was called—the wife of Nathan Frakes. Many a day did I spend with them in their cabin on the river side, and I thought Susy the best woman I ever knew, kind-hearted, almost to a fault, hospitable and intelligent.

"Mrs. Riley was perhaps the first white person who died in the county. She had been sick with the chills and fever and had called in the services of a Mr. Smith, a Kentuckian, who pretended to be a druggist, and who gave her medicine which was so effective that she was soon a corpse. So sudden was her decease that it was suspected that a mistake had been made, either in the medicine or in its administering. It was said at the time that Smith had forbidden her to drink water, but such was her intense thirst that she prevailed on two little girls who were left to watch with her, to bring her some, of which she drank freely, and very shortly afterwards was found dead. Of course her sudden death was attributed to the drink of water.

"I was but a girl when Vance came to Findlay. The first mill in the county was built whilst we were there. Mrs. Vance had gone to Urbana just previous to the birth of their first child, and Mr. Vance's sister, Bridget, came to keep house for him, but had been with him but a short time when she was attacked by the ague. I then went to live with them, and not only cooked for the men who were digging the mill race, and boarded at Vance's, but I even worked in the race. My mother, my sister and myself gathered the stalks of nettles which grew on the river bottoms below the town, from which we stripped fiber enough, that on being dressed like flax was spun and woven into linen to the amount of forty yards, and was made into clothing for the family.

"At one time We-ge-hah, or Tree-top-in-water, son of In-op-qua-nah, a Wyandot chief, became sick, and the Indians believed him to be bewitched by a bad spirit, and sent to Towa-town for Big Medicine to exorcise the spirit. My mother did not like the Indians very well, and never went amongst them much. On this occasion, however, when the Indians sent out their invitations for the great pow-wow, my mother received one. It was after much persuasion on the part of my father, and with the understanding that I should accompany her, that she finally consented to attend. When we arrived at the place of meeting, which was a log house a little west of where Judge Cory now lives—Blackford German Block—we found a few Indians assembled. The Big Medicine and his interpreter occupied the center of the room. The lights were extinguished. The tom-tom was beaten and a great noise and hubbub was made. The lights were again set to burning, and after a short silence refreshments were passed around. During this time my mother and myself having been seated in the circle which was formed around the room, clung closely together, not a little frightened at the performance.

"The sick man got no better. Big Medicine declared that the young chief was bewitched, and that the witch lived in Browntown, near Detroit, and that the sick man had a bunch of

hair in his breast, blown there by the witch, and he must cut it out. He went into a tent alone with the young man, and afterwards produced and exhibited a knot of bloody hair which he pretended to have taken from the breast of the sick man. He said, however, that just as likely as not the old witch would find out that he had taken it out, and blow it back again, and if he did the young chief would die. The witch no doubt did so, for the young man died. The disease of which he died was no doubt the consumption.

"I am now seventy-four years old. I have seen some very hard times, but I have never seen the time that I was not happy and contended. I have not visited Findlay but once since I left there in 1825, and that was about twenty years ago. There is but one person now residing in Findlay that I remember to have been there during our stay, and that one is Job Chamberlain. When we first came to Wood County, I lived for some time in the family of Squire Carlin, who then resided there."

The following is a copy of the poll book, and abstract of the election, held April 7, 1828, in Findlay:

FIRST ELECTION.

"Poll book of the election held in the Township of Findlay, County of Hancock, on the seventh day of April in the year of our lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty-eight. Abram Huff, Wilson Vance, Mordica Hammond, Judges. John C. Wickham, Edmun S. Jones, Clerks for county officers of this election were severally sworn as the law directs, previous to their entering on the duties of their respective offices."

NUMBER AND NAMES OF ELECTORS.

1. Ephraim Elder
2. Asher Wickham
3. Samuel Sargent
4. Thomas Slight
5. William Hackney
6. John P. Hamilton
7. Henry George
8. Thomas Thompson
9. Joseph Sargent
10. Abram Huff
11. Peter George
12. Amos Beard
13. Mordica Hammond
14. Blueferd Hambleton
15. Don Alonzo Hamlin
16 John Elder
17. Joseph Slight
18. George W. Simkins
19. Miner T. Wickam
20. Nathan Frakes
21. Thomas Wingate
22. Wilson Vance
23. Joseph Johnson
24. Thomas Chester
25. William Wade
26. John C. Wickham
27. Josiah Elder
28. John Huff
29. Jesse Hewitt
30. John Long
31. Daniel Hamblin
32. Sampson Dildine
33. Asa M. Lake
34. Reuben W. Hamblin
35. George Swagart
36. John Jones
37. William Moreland, Jr.
38. John Taylor
39. John Fishel
40. James Beard
41. Godfrey Wolford
42. Edwin S. Jones
43. Selden Blodget
44. Job Chamberlin
45. John Gardiner
46. Robert Macully
47. Jacob Poe

48. Ebenezer Wilson
49. Charles D. Smith
50. Robert McKinnis
51. John Shoemaker
52. John Boid
53. Charles McKinnis
54. James Hendricks
55. Abel Tanner
56. Jacob Moreland
57. George Shaw
58. Asa Lake
59. William Grear
60. Squire Carlin
61. Simeon Ransbottom
62. Benjamin Chandler
63. John Tullis
64. James McKinnis
65. William Moreland
66. David Gitchel
67. John Simpson
68. John Travis
69. Joseph Dewitt
70. Philip McKinnis
71. Mathew Reighly
72. Joshua Hedges
73. Reuben Hale
74. Isaac Johnson

We do hereby certify that Reubin Hale had votes for Sheriff, 34, and Don Alonzo Hamlin for Sheriff 39.

John Boid for Coroner had 3 votes.

Isaac Johnson, 34 votes.

Thomas Slight, 37 votes.

Job Chamberlain had 31 votes for Commissioner.

Charles McKinnis had 35 votes.

Godfrey Wolford had 74 votes.

John P. Hambleton had 41 votes.

John Long had 39 votes.

Mathew Reighly had 59 votes for Auditor.

Joshua Hedges had 57 for Treasurer.

John Long had 35 votes for Assessor.

William Hackney had 39 votes.

ATTEST:

ABRAHAM HUFF,
WILSON VANCE,
MORDICA HAMMOND,
Judges of Election.

J. C. WICKHAM,
E. S. JONES, *Clerks.*

On examining the Poll book of the election for county officers, we do find that the following candidates were elected:

DON ALONZO HAMLIN, Sheriff.
THOMAS SLIGHT, Coroner.
GODFREY WOLFORD,
JOHN LONG,
JOHN P. HAMBLETON, Commissioners.
MATTHEW REIGHLY, Auditor.
JOSHUA HEDGES, Treasurer.
WILLIAM HACKNEY, Assessor.

Clerk and Justices present:

WILSON VANCE, Clerk pro tem.
JOSHUA HEDGES,
WILLIAM HACKNEY, Justices of the Peace.

The county was now fully organized and officered and prepared for governmental business. Doubtless the responsibilities of office sat lightly upon these early officials and interfered in but slight degree with their regular avocations. There were no public buildings in the county at that time, but the lack of them was not seriously felt. The people knew where to find their officials, and as the treasurer, who lived in the country, carried his tax duplicate around with him, it is said, he was always ready to receive moneys of the tax payers wherever he chanced to meet them. In this easy and happy manner did Hancock County —named after John Hancock of Revolutionary fame—embark on its long and prosperous voyage.

CHAPTER V.

TOPOGRAPHICAL.

Acreage of the County—Its Boundaries and Surface—The Soil—The River—Jean Jacques Blanchard—"Wild Cat Thicket"—Timber—Marshes—Sand Ridges—Crops—Springs—Benefit of the Limestone Formation—Under Drainage—Fish and Game.

Hancock County originally contained 368,-640 acres of land, but upon the formation of Wyandot County in 1845, 28,000 acres were struck off of Hancock and became a part of the new county.

Hancock County is in the northwest part of Ohio, and in what is known as the Maumee Valley. It is bounded on the north by Wood County, on the east by Seneca and Wyandot, on the south by Hardin, and on the west by Putnam.

The surface is generally level, and much of it is appropriately called "flat land." The borders of the river and creeks are in many places broken, but in no place can they be said to be hilly. There is enough declination towards the water courses to make drainage easy and cheap, but there are no hills, no swamps, no lakes and no deserts, the entire county being adapted to agricultural purposes.

The soil is varied, mostly black loam, mixed with sand on a limestone base. It is in general highly fertile and susceptible of cultivation, being adapted to the production of almost any crop known in the temperate zone. It is just as productive of wheat as of corn, of grass as of vegetables. In most parts of the county it is deep and lasting, and does not require much assistance from fertilizers. The river and creek bottoms, though subject to occasional overflows, are especially productive, whilst the high lands yield scarce less bountiful crops.

Hancock County is watered by the Blanchard fork of the Auglaize River, which has its source in Hardin County, and enters this county in the southeastern part, at nearly the center of the south line of Delaware Township, running nearly north through that and Jackson and Amanda, and to near the center of Marion, when from that point it runs in a westerly course through Marion, Findlay, Liberty and Blanchard Townships, to the Putnam County line. By the Shawnees this river was called Sho-po-quo-to-kepe, or Tailor River, from the fact that Blanchard, after whom it was named, was by occupation a tailor. The river formerly furnished sufficient water power for running mills almost the entire year, but as the country has improved, lands became drained, creeks cleared of fallen timber and

other obstructions, the supply of water is only sufficient for such purposes for a few months in the year.

Jean Jacques Blanchard, after whom the river was named, was French by nationality, "a tailor by trade, adventurer by disposition and non-communicative about himself from choice." He came from Louisiana in 1770, settled among the Shawnees, married a squaw, reared a family of seven children, and resided upon this stream long prior to the cession of the territory, which it forms, to the United States. He died in 1802, it is supposed on the site of old Fort Findlay. "He spoke Parisian French, is said to have had an intimate acquaintance with Greek and Latin, and had a liberal education. He was a man of all a Frenchman's culture and refinement, and the wonder is what he was doing out in the forsaken wilds of the Northwest Territory, married to a squaw, devoted to twelve little half-breed sons and daughters and plying his trade up and down the banks of the little river which soon became known as his especial property." He never gave any account of his wanderings, so the historians have accredited him to a Spanish pirate ship which he is supposed to have tired of. No one seems to know how he got to the point east of Dayton, where he first joined the Shawnees in 1770. It is known that he emigrated to Louisiana in 1760, and was there two years, but the seven years intervening is food for his building of historic theories. One theory is that he fled from his home in France for some offense. It is claimed that he was well skilled in carving and with his curiously wrought tools amused the Indians by his work in this art. He lived thirty years with his Shawnee wife, and when the Indians emigrated seven of his children were still living. In 1857 part of the tribe with which he identified himself moved to Iowa, Blanchard's son being chief of the division, and to this day there are Indians who trace their genealogy back to the point where Blanchard's sons appeared on the stage of Indian life.

In the north part of the county there is a tract of land ranging from one mile to two miles in width, and about ten miles in length from east to west, known as the "wild-cat thicket." It has its beginning in the western part of Portage Township, and crosses Allen and Cass, terminating in the western part of Washington Township. Prior to the settlement of that part of the county this tract of land was covered with a dense undergrowth, the larger timber having all been blown down by a hurricane, it is supposed, which passed over it, no one knows when. Indeed, from its then appearance, the entire body of timber, both large and small, must have been prostrated by the violence of no ordinary storm, and the present growth of timber dates since that period. Many of the older inhabitants well remember the look of desolation which was here presented—trunks of forest trees, decayed and decaying, an almost impenetrable thicket of bushes and wild vines, believed to be inhabited by wild cats, and other dangerous animals. Hence the name of "Wild Cat Thicket." The course of the storm must have been from west to east, as the trunks of the fallen trees lay in that direction, with their tops to the east.

The timber consists of the different varieties of the oak, and ash, walnut, poplar, beech, elm, maple—both hard and soft—buckeye, linn, hackberry, honey locust, wild cherry and mulberry. There was a very great quantity of walnut, ash and poplar, which woods are now most valuable, but which at the early settle-

ment were of little or no value except for making rails for fencing. Now no timber grows but is of some value, oftentimes of more value than the land is after the timber has been removed. At the time of the first settlement of the county, it was an unbroken wilderness, densely covered with rank vegetation. A part of what is now Big Lick Township was a wet prairie, covered with a luxuriant growth of grass, but the ground was so wet and soft that it was almost impassable.

In Orange Township, there was quite an extensive cranberry marsh, which for years after the settlement of the county, was considered valueless for farming purposes. But as the country became settled, and farms were opened up on the borders of this marsh, making gradual encroachments upon it, the attention of the land owners in the vicinity was called to it, and since then, by a system of drainage under the supervision of the county officials, it has all been reclaimed, and is rich beyond measure.

A narrow sand ridge, upon which the Benton Ridge road is located runs southwest from Findlay through the village of Benton Ridge to the Putnam County line. Two sand ridges enter the northeast corner of the county and passing westward unite as one ridge on Section 5, Washington Township, thence runs in a southwesterly direction across Cass, Allen, Portage, and Pleasant Townships, where it is known as Sugar Ridge, because of the large number of sugar trees that once grew upon it. Fostoria, Van Buren and McComb are located on this ridge. Another of these narrow belts enters the northeast corner of Portage Township from Wood County and runs southwest, parallel with and about two miles north of Sugar Ridge. In the geological report of the state these ridges are called "The ancient beaches of Lake Erie."

"Limestone Ridge" is an elevated belt of sand and clay underlaid with limestone lying south of the prairie in Biglick Township. It was so named on account of the numerous flakes of limestone found scattered over its surface, probably the result of a great natural upheaval during the first stages of the earth's formation.

Wheat is one of the principal crops of Hancock County. Indian corn is produced in all parts of the county and has always been regarded as a standard crop. Oats of a good quality are produced in great quantities. Barley and rye are cultivated to some extent, but not being so readily marketed as wheat, less attention is paid to their raising. Buckwheat of course commands some attention from the farmer, as people could not very well do without their "Buckwheat cakes" for breakfast. Irish and sweet potatoes are easily cultivated, and yield most abundantly. Indeed all kinds of vegetables yield a most bountiful harvest. Fruits of almost all kinds can be found in all parts of the county, especially apples, which are the surest crop. Peaches, although a never failing crop in the early days of the county, may now be considered an almost entire failure. Small fruits are usually a good crop, but occasionally complete failures happen.

The county has but few springs, but water of a good quality may be obtained, in most places, by sinking wells from six feet to thirty feet in depth. The water, in consequence of the almost universal pres-

ence of limestone, is highly impregnated with lime, and is what is called "hard water." The river and creeks furnish an abundance of good limestone, used only, however, for making lime, of which article a very fine quality is produced, and used for building foundation and basement walls, not being of a quality suitable for other building purposes. In some parts of the county farmers meet with difficulty in tilling the soil, in consequence of the cropping out of the limestone formation. But the perfect adaptation of such lands to wheat raising, and the enormous crops produced fully compensate for the extra trouble.

Statistics in regard to the wealth and prosperity of the county, as a farming and stockraising locality, may be found elsewhere in this volume.

Formerly one of the worst drawbacks to the farmers in Hancock County as well as to those in other parts of northwestern Ohio, was the liability to damage by having too much rain drown out their crops. This has been almost entirely eliminated by the system of tiling or under-drainage. This was commenced by the most enterprising farmers about 1870 or 1875 and has grown in favor among the agriculturists from the beginning to the present. The lowest lying land of rich alluvial formation was almost useless until this plan was adopted, but since then it is considered as by far the most profitable land to own. Even the high ground is greatly benefited by the uniform system of tiling and now that all the farmers accept the situation and have tiled their land, it has placed them in a position of independence in regard to wet and dry seasons.

The river, formerly supplied the early settlers with an abundance of choice fish, but now by reason of the many obstructions placed in it in the shape of mill-dams, but few fish are caught, and they only of an inferior quality.

Wild game was also very abundant, but since the settlement of the county it has almost entirely disappeared.

CHAPTER VI.

PIONEER DAYS.

Early Records—Population—Settlements—Missionaries and Meeting-Houses—Camp-Meetings—First Sermon—Early Schools and Schoolmasters—The Country Shoemaker—Log Rolling—Shooting —Cornhusking—House-Raisings—Threshing—Quilting Bees—Racing and Other Sports—Stores and Taverns—Necessaries of Pioneer Existence—Description of Old Time Tavern—General Muster—Malaria and Milksickness—Taxable Property in 1824—Tax Levies—Findlay Selected as County Seat—The First Marriage—A Contested Election—County Printing—Road-Building—Administration of Estates—A Foul Murder—Simon Girty—Johnny Appleseeds—J. N. Free.

Owing to the fact that the early records of Hancock County were kept for the most part in small books, poorly made, or on scraps of paper, poorly preserved, much of our early history is lost beyond hope of recovery. Much that was recorded has, by the carelessness of those who had the records in charge, been mutilated to such an extent as to be almost unintelligible, and is thus unavailable for the purposes of the historian.

The population of the county in 1828 might be estimated from the vote polled in that year. As we have already seen, the first election held in the county after its separate organization, took place on the first Monday in April, 1828, at which election there were *seventy-four* votes cast. Now counting the population at five times the number of voters, we have three hundred and seventy as the entire population, which number is no doubt very nearly correct. At this date there were perhaps not more than a half dozen settlements in the county—one at Mt. Blanchard, one at Findlay, one at McKinnis, and one perhaps in the south part of the county, with one or two small communities elsewhere. Of course, there were a few families residing at various other points in the county, but they were regarded as a part of one or the other of these principal settlements, for all were neighbors then who lived within a day's journey of each other.

In 1830, when the Federal census was taken, there were eight hundred and thirteen persons in the county. Of that number four hundred and fifty-one were white males, and three hundred and fifty-one were white females, and there were three males and six females colored. Of the total number, only two hundred and fifty-two were above the age of twenty-one and one hundred and fifty-five males, and one hun-

dred and forty-seven females, about three-fourths of the entire population were under the age of twenty.

In 1880, just fifty years after, the population of the county was twenty-seven thousand three hundred and forty-three. In 1900 it was 41,993.

The census of 1830 does not give the number of acres of improved lands, and value of buildings in the county. We may, however, well conclude that but little had been done as yet towards subduing the wilderness, for even a hundred good stalwart pioneers could make but little headway against nature, which had been at work for centuries. Farms or clearings were therefore few and far between, and as to buildings, probably there was not a frame or brick building in the county outside of Findlay.

MISSIONARIES AND CHURCHES.

"Long before church buildings were erected, the missionary—ever mindful of the Master's work—came, and for the time being the rude cabin of the frontiersman, or the log schoolhouse, were the church edifices, in the advanced settlements. Here too, in these primitive buildings, were held the Sabbath Schools, the meetings of which were as anxiously looked for, and as highly enjoyed as are our more modern schools. Church services were frequently held in woods, under the cool shade of the forest trees, 'God's First Temples.' Such meetings were known as campmeetings, because those attending erected tents in which to reside during the continuance of the meeting. This style of meeting was then a necessity, as there were no buildings of sufficient capacity to hold the congregations, and not ministers enough to supply the different settlements with services, hence, they came together in large bodies, and had the advantage of the ministrations of a number of preachers.

"These meetings were conducted with the utmost decorum, with services at stated hours, and rules governing the little community in such a manner that all might enjoy their coming together. This style of service is not practiced to a great extent in this day, for there exists no such necessity as at that early date. With the abundance of houses of worship and ministers of the gospel, the holding of them meets with much disfavor by very many Christian men and women, as they are too generally visited by the wicked who wish to avail themselves of an opportunity of showing their innate cussedness."

The first church edifice erected in the county was the "Dukes' Meeting House," in Blanchard Township. It was built and owned by the Methodist Episcopal Church. The building was hewed of logs, and its dimensions were thirty-two feet long and twenty-eight feet wide. The roof was of clap-boards, a kind of roofing very much in use at that time, and were kept in their places by poles laid on each course of boards. The openings between the logs were chinked with wood, and daubed with mortar, the then prevailing style. The pulpit and seats were of rude construction. The seats were simply benches without backs, and the pulpit of unpainted boards. Many—very many—who in that early day met in that house for worship, have passed away. The pulpit in that old church has

been occupied by such ministers as Bigelow, Finley, Thompson, Wilson, Gurley, Allen, Heustiss, Conway, Hill, Runnels, Breckenridge, Delany, Biggs and a host of other pioneer Methodists, whose names are familiar, not only in our own county, but all over Western Ohio. Humanity, civilization, good society, and all that goes to make us a great people, owe to these self-sacrificing, earnest, unselfish, devoted servants of their Master, a debt which can never be repaid, except by a practice of the precepts they taught, and in a defense of their memories.

As early as the year 1822, the Rev. James Gilruth, a Methodist minister, preached in Findlay. He had left his home in the east and came west for the purpose of entering lands. He first visited the land office at Bucyrus, Ohio, and there obtained a plat of Government lands not taken up in the District. He made his way into Hardin County, passing through old Ft. McArthur. But not being able to suit himself in that region, he turned towards Findlay. After leaving Ft. McArthur, he did not see a dwelling house until his arrival in Findlay, which was in the month of April. As soon as it became known that a preacher had arrived, he was waited upon by some of the citizens, and requested to preach for them. This he readily consented to do, and an appointment was made and circulated to the different settlements. Father Gilruth said he had a very attentive congregation, and as large a one as he could expect, and indeed it was said at the time, by those in attendance, that almost every man and woman in the county was present. This sermon was undoubtedly the first ever preached in the county.

It is stated, however, that the late Rev. Adam Poe, also of the Methodist Church, was led to suppose that he preached the first sermon in the county, owing to the following circumstance. He and another minister on their way from the Maumee River to the South, stopped at Findlay over night, and were solicited to preach. Poe consented to do so. They had put up at the tavern kept by Wilson Vance, had their horses cared for and ate their suppers, after which they went to the place of meeting, which was in a log schoolhouse near where the depot of the C. S. & C. "Big 4" Railroad is now located. The two missionaries had but a single dollar between them, and as it would require all of that to pay for their suppers and the care of their horses, and no one inviting them home with them, they slept in the schoolhouse that night, and the next morning, after paying their bill at the tavern, they rode to the next settlement, a distance of several miles, before getting breakfast. It is not at all strange, after such an experience, that Poe and his companion should conclude that they were the first to bring good tidings to this benighted people.

EARLY SCHOOLS AND SCHOOLMASTERS.

The history of education in Ohio is unique in this respect: That in 1785, before there was a settlement in the territory now comprised within the State, it was provided by Congress, in an ordinance for the survey and sale of the western lands, that section sixteen, or one-thirty-sixth of every township included under the ordinance, should be reserved from sale for the maintenance of public schools within the township. The "Compact of 1787" declared

that "schools and the means of education shall forever be encouraged."

As these lands were at first only reserved from sale and settlement, no steps were taken by the territorial legislature to apply them to the purpose for which they were set aside. When Ohio was admitted as a State, these reserved school lands (of which there were 740,000 acres) were granted to the State and placed at the disposal of the Legislature.

The constitution of 1802, repeating the famous educational clause of the Ordinance of 1787, made it the duty of the Legislature to carry out its intent. It also provided that all schools, academies and colleges founded upon or supported by revenues from the land grants should be open "for the reception of scholars, students and teachers of every grade without any distinction or preference whatever." The Constitution of 1851 goes still farther, and declares in plain terms that the General Assembly shall provide by taxation or otherwise, "a thorough and efficient system of common schools throughout the State." What has the State done in fulfillment of these constitutional obligations which it assumed? Nearly all the school lands were sold long ago, and those that have not been sold are held under perpetual lease at an extremely low rental. The money received from the sale of these lands was paid into the State treasury, the State pledging itself to pay six per cent. interest thereon forever, the interest to be distributed annually among the various townships and districts for school purposes. As a matter of fact, the fund itself has been borrowed and spent by the State, and the annual interest the State is obligated to pay is raised by taxation. The fund is now, therefore, merely a fiction of bookkeeping, and represents the legal and moral obligation on the part of the people to tax themselves a certain amount each year for school purposes.

The old log schoolhouses, with their rude furniture, have been replaced by accommodations and facilities for securing an education that transcends the wildest dreams of the teachers and pupils of those primitive days. There are few people now left in the county who are old enough to recall these early "temples of learning," and a brief description will doubtless interest the pupils of the present as well as those of coming generations. The early schools were not public schools in any true sense of the word, and not free schools in any sense. Land grants were not yet available, and school taxes were unknown. The schoolhouses were not built by subscription; the neighbors would gather at some point previously agreed upon, and, with axe in hand, the work was soon done. These early structures all belonged to the log-cabin style of architecture. They were fifteen to eighteen feet in width, and twenty-four to twenty-eight feet long, with eaves about ten feet from the ground. The chinks between the logs were filled with clay mortar. The floor was of earth, puncheons, or smooth slabs. Puncheons were logs split and smoothed a little with an axe or hatchet on the flat side. To make a window, a log was cut out, usually the entire length of the building, and the opening thus made was covered with greased paper mounted on sticks.

The room, or at least one end of it, was heated from an immense fireplace, and it usually took most of the time of three boys to fill its hungry maw with logs. The furniture consisted principally of rude benches without backs, made by splitting logs in halves, and mounting them, flat side up on four stout

wooden pins about fifteen inches long. Just under the window, two or three strong pins were driven into a log in a slanting direction; on these pins a long puncheon was fastened, which served as a writing desk for the whole school. There was no blackboard, and no apparatus of even the rudest description to assist the teacher in expounding the lesson. Steel pens were as yet unknown and their place was supplied by goose quills. Reading, spelling, writing and arithmetic constituted the course of study. Text-books were few. The favorite reader, when it could be procured, was the New Testament; Murray's reader was owned by a few, and here and there would be found a copy of the "Columbian Orator;" Webster's Speller was the first used, later, the "Elementary Speller" was introduced. They learned to "figure" from Pike's and Smiley's Arithmetics. When grammar was taught, which was not often, Murray's and Kirkham's grammars were the text-books used. These were the books comprising the primitive outfit of the teacher, while each pupil usually had one or more of them. As there was but little work to do on the farm in mid-winter, a three months' term was taught at that season, so that the boys could attend. The teachers were paid by subscription, and "boarded around," the terms being from one to three dollars per pupil for a term of three months. In those days there was little money with which to pay salaries, as nothing was raised to sell, and gold and bank notes were unknown before the War of 1812.

Probably none of these early teachers could measure up to the standards required of the teachers now in our schools; but, fortunately, the conditions of life in those pioneer days did not call for the educational qualifications that the boys and girls of the rising generation must have to hold their own in the battle of life.

After the completion of a rude edifice, the school directors hired perhaps the first man who came along and claimed that he was capable of teaching school. The younger class of rising Americans of that day, like their elders, took pride in the exercise of their muscular force in pugilistic encounters, and not infrequently there occurred a set-to between the teacher and the big boys when he attempted to punish them for infractions of the rules, in which the master generally came out best; for if he did not, he might as well have given up his position at once, for if worsted, from that time on there would be trouble brewing constantly; and in some schools it was necessary in hiring a teacher, to look well to his physical as well as to his intellectual qualifications, for without the former the latter were of little account.

"Readin and Ritin and Rithmetic were taught to the tune of a Hickory Stick," and it was considered a wise precaution on the part of those interested to look the master over well and size up his prowess on the first day of the term, so as to compute just how far it would be prudent to tempt him. During the holiday season it was the custom to expect a treat of apples or candy or both from the teacher to the entire school, and if he was negligent or refused to do so, he was barred out of the school room by the large boys, who secured an entrance to the premises by a key or through a window early in the morning, and by securely fastening the door on the inside, would not permit him to enter until the coveted treat was promised. In some

instances this was carried on for several days in succession, the children returning each day to their homes for that day. At times the teacher arrived on the ground first and obtaining entrance first held the fort. But then the said "big boys," after fastening the door and windows on the outside would climb to the roof and by covering the chimney, would smoke the teacher into submission.

But taking it all in all when the teacher showed firmness with kindness, there was abundance of good feeling and a pleasant time was enjoyed.

In those days the country schoolmaster ranked next in importance to the circuit preacher, and as he went boarding around he was welcome to the best seat by the fire side, and the choicest viands at the table, and was regarded by the patrons of the school as the embodyment of wisdom, and by the younger members of the family as the embodyment of power, for well they remembered the birch rods sticking up in the walls of the old schoolhouse, and with what expertness he could wield them.

The first schoolhouse in Hancock County was built in Findlay, and the first school was taught by John C. Wickham, who was long a resident of the county.

THE COUNTRY SHOEMAKER.

In early days, owing to the absence of mercantile and manufacturing establishments made it extremely inconvenient, and at times almost impossible to obtain the necessary articles of clothing. A very large portion of the early settlers were engaged in agricultural pursuits, and hence mechanics and artisans were in demand, and the supply was of the less skillful class.

Thus the country shoemaker—and almost every settlement contained one—was a necessary appendage to a well regulated neighborhood. Each farmer or head of a family, would purchase leather enough, both sole and upper, to supply each member of his family with a pair of shoes—good heavy waterproof shoes—made for service, rather than for ornament. The shoemaker was then engaged to work up the stock. He had no shop furnished with counters, shelves and drawers, well stored with manufactured work, indeed it frequently happened that he had no abiding place, but like the country schoolmaster, boarded around. Going from house to house, he would take his seat by the side of the huge fire-place, and would measure, and cut, and shape, and thus make shoes enough for the whole family. His annual visits were looked for with interest by the little ones who, when he had come, would gather around him, watching with open-eyed wonder, the putting together with wax-end and peg, the homely but serviceable foot-gear. And how they enjoyed his story telling and songs. The coming of the shoemaker was one of the events not to be forgotten.

LOG ROLLING.

A log rolling was one of the great social events of early days and combined work with pleasure. The pioneer, after he had cut down the trees, and burnt the limbs or "brush" as it was called, cut them into certain lengths, and was then ready for "log rolling," to which all his neighbors were

invited—an invitation that was never refused, unless for valid reasons. When the log rollers had assembled on the ground, they selected two or more of their number as captains, and by choice made by the captains would divide themselves into parties and apportion an equal amount of work to each party. The logs were then rolled into heaps and burned. The party who first cleared their portion of the ground, was declared winner and entitled to a first "smile" from the little brown jug, and a seat at the first table. A clearing with a score or more of men thus engaged in a friendly contest, was rather a lively place.

For the same occasion, the good wife would quietly put the patch-work quilt in the frames, and invite the wives and daughters of the log rollers to come in and help her. Thus, while the men and boys were busy in the fields, the women and girls were busy with the needles. After supper, whilst the girls were busy washing the dishes, and setting the house in order, the men found recreation in feats of running, wrestling and jumping. Candles, or the dry hickory bark torch were lit at dark, the country fiddler made his appearance, and taking his seat on a table, tuned up his instrument, when "choose your partners" was in order. The pioneer boys and girls danced to the music of such good old healthy tunes as the Fisher's Horn Pipe, Money Musk, Devil's Dream, Arkansaw Traveler and Colonel Johnson.

Whilst the young people were thus engaged, the older ones occupied themselves in smoking and rehearsing the exploits and gallantries of their younger days, occasionally joining in the dance, just to show the young folks how they used to do, you know. But to the still younger ones, the most interesting part of a log-rolling and quilting was the supper, for they were sure to get an extra piece of johnny cake, and a piece of pumpkin pie, after which they were generally willing to go to bed; but willing or unwilling, they went; as their room was much more desirable than their company, and they were tired out by the uncommon excitement of the day.

OTHER PIONEER AMUSEMENTS.

Every pioneer was of necessity a hunter, not for amusement alone, but for the reason that much of his subsistence, and his safety, and that of his property depended upon his skill and vigilance with the rifle. Hence it was, that almost every man and boy, and a great many women and girls were accomplished shots. Many a leisure hour did they while away in friendly competition with their trusty rifles, and proud was the champion of his laurels thus honorably won.

Among the most pleasant gatherings of these early settlers, were the corn huskings. Sometimes the corn was husked just as it had been cut and shocked in the field. At other times it was gathered in one place, either on a fine grass plot, or on the barn floor. It was usually divided into equal parts, and the husking party was divided into companies under captains. The company that first completed its task was declared the victor. When the huskings were held in the barn, the women and children would frequently assist.

These husking bees were usually held when the moon was at its full, so that there would be sufficient light. In the meanwhile the women-folk of the party were engaged in cooking and preparing supper for all, consisting of yellow corn cake, juicy venison, luscious turkey, and occasionally a slice or two of bear

steak. Not unfrequently an entire crop of corn was husked in one night and without expense to the owner, other than furnishing the supper to the workmen.

Another source of pleasure, although mixed with hard work were house-raisings. In this, as in log rollings and corn huskings, the participants were divided into companies each under the lead of a captain. To each was assigned the raising of one side and of one end of the cabin. Each of these parties chose two of the most expert ax-men to carry up the corners, as the logs were raised to the proper place. A good deal of skill and a mechanical eye was required by these corner men, as a very slight mistake in making a notch too shallow or too deep or out of a straight line, might loose the whole corner. So expert became many of these men—and they were found in every settlement—that they were enabled to notch and place the logs almost as rapidly as they could be raised to their place on the building.

Grain was not thrashed by machinery driven by steam, as now, but was either beaten out by the old fashioned swingle or flail, or tramped out by horses or oxen. When thrashed it was separated from the chaff by a fanning-mill—consisting of two men and a linen sheet, the grain being slowly poured from a measure at an elevation, and passed in front of the mill, which was kept constantly in motion; the chaff was blown away, the clean grain falling to the floor.

The women also had their sport, for quilting bees were no less a source of pleasure and enjoyment to the wives. All the good dames in a neighborhood would assemble around the patchwork quilt and with stitch and gossip while away the time pleasantly, and around the well-ladened tea table exchange reminiscences of their girl-hood days.

Athletic sports had a great charm for these backwoodsmen. Running foot-races, jumping, wrestling, pitching quoits or horse shoes, lifting weights and like manly exercises best pleased them. Some of their feats of jumping and racing would do credit to a troup of modern athletes. And the ease with which they could "ring the meg" with a horse shoe at twenty-five or thirty yards was astonishing. With such exercises as these their muscles became hardened, their limbs were developed and their endurance put to the test.

Horse racing was also a favorite amusement with some. The swiftness of a race was not regarded as of much moment, but the simple fact that two horses would make a race no matter how slow it was, would be sufficient to draw a crowd and the pleasure in the amusement seemed to be just as keen as if they had been witnessing some of the feats of modern high-flyers.

Because of the isolated condition of the settlements and the almost unceasing toil of all, any social gathering was hailed with pleasure and enjoyed to the fullest extent.

STORES AND TAVERNS.

In the early days the mercantile business was no slight undertaking. Without any of our modern facilities for safe and rapid transportation, all goods had to be brought overland from points in the far distant East, principally Philadelphia, at great expense and risk, and it is not strange that we find that many a person who attempted the enterprise was compelled to abandon it after a loss. Naturally the stores were not of the specialized character that they possess, at least in the larger places, today, but

contained commodities of every variety that could be used in the primitive settlements. The settlers depended, too, on providing themselves with many of the necessities for which we are now accustomed to look to our merchants.

There were two commodities which, to most, are almost absolute essentials to existence and which the early settlers had the greatest difficulty in obtaining. These were flour and salt. In consequence we find among the earliest activities of the pioneer, an effort to provide a supply of these articles. Owing to the want of flouring mills in the county, flour and other bread stuffs had to be procured from distant and more favored settlements. Urbana, Perrysburg and Sandusky City were the principal points visited for this purpose. Salt was usually obtained through a process of evaporation by boiling the water from saline springs, a slow and tedious operation which raised the price of the product almost to that of a luxury. Then there were hats, shoes, crockery, hardware, medicines and groceries to be provided. For years money was very scarce, and all business became a system of barter, and goods were exchanged almost exclusively for produce. The trade with Indians was at one time large. They brought cranberries, maple sugar and syrup, pelts and furs, and bought only the finest goods. The women would take only the finest broadcloths for blankets and petticoats, while the men chose the brightest prints for shirts. The ordinary prints which now sell for 8 cents per yard sold then for $1.00, while the higher priced sold for $1.50 per yard. Every store had upon its counter a flask of whiskey with a glass and it was expected that every one who came into the store would avail himself or herself of the hospitality thus set forth. Tobacco was in large demand among the Indians, who made a mixture of tobacco and sumac leaves, calling it 'Kinnikinic.' "

In the early days there was no institution of greater importance, perhaps, than the tavern. The most prominent and influential citizens did not hesitate to engage in the business, and the number of taverns in existence at that time in any locality would now, perhaps, be considered out of proportion to the size of the place. It was a sort of center for all the various activities of the neighborhood. Here the people gathered to exchange their gossip as well as to hear news of the outside world from any chance stranger that happened along. Here all the public gatherings were arranged, all the notices were posted, and court was held here, in some localities. It was an institution of great importance, just as it is in later times, though in lesser degree, under another name. It was not long after the county began to be settled until we find these hostelries being established in various parts of the county as the need for them arose. The following description of one of these old taverns, though applying to a neighboring county, will answer equally well for the type that prevailed in early days in Hancock County.

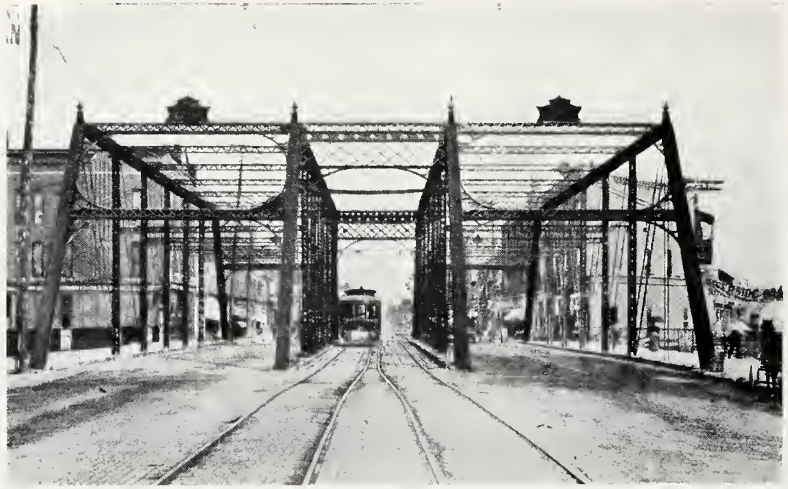
"The Pioneer Tavern was a few rods southeast of the 'Medicine Water.' It was on the plateau just east of the ridge that lies south of the spring, and terminated near there, some three or four rods onward from the present street. The first house was a double roomed one, with a loft, standing north and south, facing the east, and was built of round logs, 'chinked and daubed.' In course of time, a second house, two stories high, was added, built of hewed logs, and placed east and west, at right angles with the south end of the first

building, with a little space between them. In this space was the well with its curb, and its tall, old-fashioned, but easy-working 'well-sweep.' Around at the southwest of this was the log barn and the blacksmith shop, and a double granary or corn-crib, with a space between for its many purposes, as necessary, indeed, as the kitchen is for household purposes. Here was the grind-stone, the shaving-horse, the hewing block, the tools of all kinds and the pegs for hanging up traps of all sorts. Here the hog was scalded and dressed, the deer, raccoon and 'possum were skinned, and their skins stretched and dried, or tanned. Here also were the nuts cracked and dried. For many reasons it has a bright place in the memories of boyhood. How few know the importance of the pioneer tavern in early days. It was, of course, the place of rest for the weary traveler, whether on foot or on horse. It was many a day before a 'dearborn' or a 'dandy-wagon' was known on the road. But it was much more than this and seemed the emporium of everything. It was the market place for all; the hunter with his venison and turkeys; the trapper with his skins and furs; and the knapsack peddler—the pioneer merchant—here gladdened the hearts of all with his 'boughten' wares. At this tavern, too, were all public gatherings called, to arrange for a general hunt, to deal out justice to some transgressor of the unwritten but well known pioneer laws. In fact it was here, at a later period, that the first organized county court was held, with the grand jury in the tavern loft and the petit jury under a neighboring shade tree."

GENERAL MUSTER.

One of the most important events in pioneer days was the General Muster, it being especially interesting to the younger portion of the population. For months before the annual parade the soldiers were busy in repairing and polishing up their old flint-lock muskets, while the officers were studying up their words of command, and brushing up their regimentals. The farmer, who always had an eye to business on such occasions, was carefully cultivating his melons, and vigilantly watching to protect them from thieves. The thrifty house wife was gathering up the eggs and laying by the butter, for she intends going to town on training day, and with the proceeds of her produce, to buy a little tea for her next quilting, and an extra bit of muslin for a new cap. The grown up girls were busy making dresses, for their beaux had been over and invited them to go to town on muster day, and had offered them a seat on the horse behind them, and the small boys were trying to earn and save all the pennies they could, expecting to invest their savings in ginger-bread and candy. When the long looked for day came, almost the entire population of the county might have been found assembled at the county-seat, the place of general rendezvous. Officers in blue coats, brass buttons, red sashes, monstrous epaulets, and broad swords, mounted on the stately plow horse, cavorting up and down the street, the terror of anxious mothers, in danger themselves of broken necks, and to the admiration of small boys. George Washington in all his glory was never arrayed like one of these militia officers, and we doubt if he ever felt half so important. The men by companies, some armed with rifles, but more with sticks and mullein stalks, marched and counter

MUNICIPAL BUILDING. CENTRAL FIRE DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS, FINDLAY



MAIN STREET BRIDGE, FINDLAY

OIL WELL IN OPERATION NEAR FINDLAY

THE PHOENIX INN, FINDLAY

marched, and performed evolutions not now laid down in the regulations. They were formed into lines, into circles, into hollow-squares—a great deal more hollow than square. There were the Findlay Rangers under the command of Capt. Lape, arrayed in Aaron Baker's uniform. The rangers were dressed in uniforms of green, profusely trimmed with yellow tape. There were the Van Buren Rangers commanded by Col. Wall, with uniforms of green, trimmed with red, marching to the music of fife and drums. There were other companies, clothed every man accordingly to his taste, or comfort, or ability. But the "Light Horse Company," commanded by Capt. John Byal, was to the boys the very acme of military glory. To see the men mount and dismount, and face and right face, was truly wonderful. True, the evolution was not performed as rapidly and as gracefully as Phil Sheridan's cavalry might have done it, but then what did he know about cavalry mustering on farm horses?

"Under the direction of Gen. Bell, Col. Byal and other field and staff officers, the companies were put through their facings until noon, when they were dismissed for dinner. After dinner the fun commenced, in the shape of running, jumping, wrestling, pitching horse-shoes, drinking and fighting. The few groceries in the town were places of lively interest, and a good gingerbread and small beer business was done.

"Each company had its fighting man, a much more economical and comfortable plan than keeping up a whole fighting company, and he was expected to whip any and every man who dared offer an indignity to the company or any member thereof; and it was a very dull day, indeed, if there were not as many fights as there were companies on parade. After these amusements, and the wounded had been properly cared for, those who were not disabled in the engagement, and could walk, were marched to the green on the river bank—now the circus ground—for 'Grand Review,' or dress parade. Here they were inspected by the General in command who sat on his horse, 'grand, gloomy and peculiar,' under the shade of his umbrella, whilst the heated warriors marched solemnly and silently by. Tired, foot-sore, and hungry, they were discharged until the next mustering day. These veterans can now well quote the stanza:

'Oh, were you ne'er a militia man,
And did you never train?
And feel that swelling of the feet
We hope to never feel again.'"

MALARIA AND MILKSICKNESS.

The great prevalence of malaria in pioneer days is supposed to have been caused by the felling of the heavy forests and the consequent opening up of the rich damp soil to the rays of the sun. As this transformation progressed, the disease became common and severe to an extent that was disastrous to the inhabitants, and scarcely a soul escaped its visitation. Commencing with the month of July or August of each year, and especially in wet seasons came an epidemic of ague or as a majority of the people called it "agy." Popularly the disease was known as "fever and ague," "chill fever," the "shakes," etc. In the majority of cases the attack was sudden, the victim feeling no premonitary symptoms

previous to the chill. In some cases, however, there were premonitions for a variable period, consisting of pain in the head, yawning, indisposition to exertion, loss of appetite and general malaria. These symptoms were followed by the usual cold, hot, and sweating stages of the disease. At first the victim might do much labor between the daily attacks, but after its continuance for a week or more they became sallow and weak and unable to perform manual labor. In some cases the attack came on every second or third day instead of every day. The disease was a drawback to the early settlers, but as the country became cleared and drained it gradually disappeared. It was not directly fatal in any case.

A more serious disorder, which was disastrous and fatal to both man and beast, and which sometimes prevailed to an alarming extent in the early settlement and more or less up to the 80's but which is now believed to be almost or entirely extinct is what was known as "Milksickness," "Trembles," "Sick Stomach," "Slows," etc., names signifying some prominent condition or symptom of the disease. This disease prevailed over most of the country between the Allegheny and Rocky Mountains, but was especially virulent in northwestern Ohio.

It affected primarily cattle, (horses, sheep and goats being also affected), and from them it was communicated to human being through the medium of their flesh as meat or the milk of the cow. The cows themselves would convey the disease to their calves or to human beings. The cattle would take the disease while pasturing on deadnings, clearings, or new unbroken soil, and while many causes were assigned for the malady, the most common was that the animals had eaten some plants or shrub growing in uncultivated grounds, for they were not subject to it when on pasturing ground that had been well tilled. The most suspected weed was the Eupatorium ageratoides, or white snake root, a many-branched, flowering plant that gave a whitening decoration to our woodland pastures in the autumn season, the time of year when the disease prevailed. Animals attacked stood mostly in one place or moped around in a feeble manner, and if forced to exercise, would tremble violently. The appetite was gone and often their bodies would be agitated and shake like that of a person in an ague fit. After a few days they would drop over and suddenly die.

In man the symptoms were persistant vomiting, and retching, with great distress in the stomach, and restlessness. The prostration increasing, delirium came on and soon coma and death ended the scene.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The proceedings of the County Commissioners on the 1st day of June, 1829, show the following entry:

"Don Alonzo Hamlin made his return of assessment of chattel property, and land property subject to taxation in Hancock County, which was examined and accepted, and the said assessor presented his account for his labor in assessing the property of the county, which was accepted, and which was nineteen dollars and seventy-five cents."

There was but one Assessor in the county, and his duty appears to have been to value both real and personal property. In December of

the same year we find this entry: "The Auditor presented his account and was qualified to the same, ordered that the said Auditor be allowed twelve dollars and twenty-five cents for his services, and that said Auditor be paid the sum of ten dollars for extra services up to and including this day."

LIST OF ALL THE TAXABLE PROPERTY IN THE TOWNSHIP OF FINDLAY FOR 1824.

PROPRIETORS NAMES	Horses above 3 yrs. old	Neat cattle above 3 yrs. ld
L. Asa Lake	2	11
M. Charles McKinnis	2	4
M. Henry McWhorter	2	10
P. James Patterson	0	7
P. Jacob Poe	1	5
W. Joseph White		2
H. John P. Hamilton	2	2
G. John Gardner	2	4
H. John Hunter	1	8
C. Job Chamberlin		5
S. John Simpson	2	1
G. John Gardner, Jr.	1	3
M. Jacob Moreland		4
B. Michael Beck, taken in from lady	2	2
M. Philip McKinnis	1	6
T. Thomas Thompson, taken in from lady	1	5
M. William Moreland	1	3
S. Thomas Slight	1	4
V. Wilson Vance	1	4
C. Elnathan Cory, given in by Wilson Vance		15

I certify the above to be a correct list.

WILSON VANCE,
Lister of Findlay Township,
Wood County, Ohio.

Endorsed Taxable Property, Findlay Township, 1824.

The amount of tax on each animal was fixed by the Auditor, the tax being a specified sum on each, and not a per cent, as at the present day. No animals under three years of age were taxable. The township of Findlay, it will be recollected, embraced the whole county, at this date. In 1826, the records of Wood County—to which we were then attached, comprising one township show that the tax in this county was $56.17.

In 1829, the earliest tax list is found, after the independent organization of the county, the value of the taxable property of the county, as returned, was $16,601.00, and included in the then townships of Findlay, Delaware and Amanda, the only organized townships in the county, and the assessment included both real and personal property. The tax assessed upon the valuation was $172.44.

In 1829, there were 4,775 acres of land subject to taxation in the county, and this was valued at $8,186, not more than an average farm is now worth, or a little over two dollars an acre. Of this taxable land, 2,969 acres were in Findlay; 1,374 in Delaware, and 252 in Amanda Township. Our Amanda Township friends will perhaps be mortified to know that their lands were valued much lower than were the lands in the other townships, and yet it was no doubt some consolation to know that they paid but $4.30 tax on land.

In 1829 there was returned by the Assessor ninety-three horses, valued at $3,720.00, and 279 cattle, valued at $3,116.00. From these few illustrations, we may see from what small beginnings the early settlers began life in this new country.

In the year 1830, the salary of the County Assessor was fixed at $23.37½, and that of the Auditor at $40.00.

On the 3d day of April, 1834, William L. Henderson was appointed appraiser of real estate for Hancock County.

The tax levy for 1829 for county purposes,

was seven and one-half mills on the dollar. For 1830, it was seven mills. For 1831, it was seven mills. For 1832, it was five mills. In 1833, for county purposes, seven and one-quarter mills, and for road purposes, two mills.

At a session of the Court of Common Pleas, in and for the county of Wood, Hancock being then a part of said county—the court being held at Maumee, in 1820. "Wilson Vance was appointed Surveyor of Wood County."

At a session of the same court, held in May, 1822, "Wilson Vance was licensed to keep a tavern in Findlay for one year. The court fixed the price of five dollars per annum."

At the October term, 1824, of said court, the following entry was made on the court records: "The Commissioners appointed to establish the seat of justice in the County of Hancock, in the State of Ohio, report that they have selected the town of Findlay, in said County of Hancock, as the most suitable site for the seat of justice of said county, as per their report on file, in the office of the Clerk of this Court."

This Commission was appointed under the provisions of the Act of the General Assembly, as follows:

"*Resolved,* By the General Assembly of the State of Ohio, that John Owens, of the County of Champaign; Alexander Long, of the County of Logan; Forest Meeker, of the County of Delaware, be and they are hereby appointed Commissioners, to locate and fix the seat of justice, in and for the County of Hancock, February 2d, 1824."

The following record is found under the date of January, 1825: "Findlay, January 11, 1825. This is to certify, that on the second day of September, in the year 1824, Samuel Kepler, of Williams County, and Rachel McKinnis, of Hancock County, were legally joined in marriage by me, a Justice of the Peace, in and for the County of Hancock, and Township of Findlay. Given under my hand,

"Wilson Vance, J. P."

This was, undoubtedly, the first marriage in the county. At all events, it is the first of record in both Hancock and Wood Counties. Other early marriages were:

September 14th, 1826, Asa M. Lake and Charlotte Greer, by Joshua Hedges, J. P.

March 12, 1827, William Moreland and Julia Chamberlain, by Joshua Hedges, J. P.

August 24th, 1827, Sampson Dildine and Sarah Highland, by Joshua Hedges, J. P.

November 1, 1827, John Gardner and Susan Moreland, by William Hackney, J. P.

December 20, 1827, Philip McKinnis and Susan Dukes, by Joshua Hedges, J. P.

On the 4th day of June, 1832, Thomas F. Johnson, auditor, resigned, and the commissioners appointed Joseph C. Shannon to fill the vacancy. Johnston, late auditor, was allowed forty dollars for extra services."

The commissioners at their December session, in 1834, appointed Parlee Carlin, Recorder of Hancock County, until the next annual election in October. The records are silent as to the cause that made it necessary to appoint a Recorder.

The first case of contested elections, of which we have notice, is the records of the county, is indicated in the following notice, which seems to have been served on the Clerk of the Court:

"To the Clerk of Hancock County. You are requested to withhold the returns of the election of Union Township, wherein Wenmem Wade was elected Justice of the Peace, and

the election is contested, and said contest is to be tried on the 13th of September, 1838.

WM. ROLLER,
Associate Judge."

The commissioners of Wood County, at their session in December, 1820, ordered that the "road from Ft. Meigs, or the foot of the rapids of the Maumee of the Lake, to Bellefontaine, be opened." And at their session March 4, 1822, this order was made: "Ordered by the board that the Township of Waynesfield, within the jurisdiction of the County of Wood, be co-extensive with the boundaries of Wood and Hancock and to include the same."

June 6, 1826, the commissioners of Wood County, "Ordered that four hundred dollars of the road fund be appropriated to Hancock County, to be expended on the Urbana road, in said county."

The first order for printing, so far as the records show, was made at the December session, 1836, of the commissioners, and read thus: "Ordered that Jacob Rosenberg print sixteen hundred county orders, for sixteen dollars, in Hancock County orders, to be issued when the orders are struck."

It appearing that no record of land entries in the county had been kept in any of the county offices, and the county commissioners believing such a record necessary, we find in their proceedings, in 1839, this entry: "It was ordered that some suitable person go to each of the land offices in this Land Office District, and procure a duplicate of all land entered in the county up to this date, with the names of the original enterers, the date of entry, the description, quantity, township and range, was ordered to be set up to the lowest bidder at a public outcry. Whereupon, the same being cried in the presence of the commissioners, it was cried off to Jacob Rosenberg, he being the lowest bidder, for the sum of thirty-nine dollars."

We find another order for county printing, this time, June 7, 1842, and in this, as in the former one, the commissioners fix the price. It was "ordered that the auditor of Hancock County, have the receipts and expenditures of said county, published in the Courier, providing he can get it done at the rate of 87½ cents per square, in a condensed form; if not, have it posted up as the law provides."

About this time we have a recorded specimen of how easy, and how quickly, an officer may resign, when he makes up his mind to do so. "To Aquilla Gilbert, George Shaw and Andrew Ricketts, Commissioners of Hancock County. Gentlemen: I hereby resign to you my office of Auditor of Hancock County, Ohio. you will, therefore now consider said office vacant from this moment.

"Yours with respect,
"W. L. HENDERSON."

As soon as the commissioners could recover from their sudden surprise, and comprehend the full meaning of the letter, they proceeded at once not only to accept the resignation so suddenly thrust upon them, but also to fill the vacancy, which they did by appointing James H. Barr until the first day of March next ensuing.

The commissioners, on the third day of March, 1846, authorized Fred Henderson to procure a suitable bell for the court house, the original cost of which should not exceed $250 and have the same placed in the cupola of the court house.

In July, 1830, the commissioners "Ordered the sale of cutting out the road—Bellefontaine

to Perrysburg, and Findlay to Defiance—thirty-two feet wide. All timber twenty inches in circumference to be cut out, and the ground to be cleared of all timber."

ADMINISTRATION OF ESTATES.

Under the old judicial system of the State, administrators of the estates of the deceased persons were appointed by the associate judges of the county, and upon the decease of an individual seized of an estate, it was necessary to call a special session of the court, in order to appoint an administrator. This was certainly very inconvenient, and at this day would be very expensive.

The first record we find of such a session of court in this county, was one held on the 19th day of March, 1829, at Findlay, by Judges Huff, McKinnis and Wilson. At that time, William Taylor was appointed administrator of the estate of Hon. John Patterson, deceased. His sureties were Job Chamberlain, Sr., and John Boyd. The whole amount of money coming to the hands of the administrator from the sale of both real and personal property, was $869.50, quite an estate for that early day, and Mr. Patterson was regarded as one of the wealthy men of the county. The administrator was allowed a credit of two dollars, for two days' services as administrator. This was certainly a novel way of getting pay for such services, to say nothing of the very moderate charge made. The attorneys, for procuring the sale of the land, and advising in the settlement of the estate, were allowed five dollars.

The first will recorded was probated in March, 1830, and the introduction read as follows:

"In the name of God, Amen. I * * * of Hancock County, State of Ohio, being sick and weak in body, but of sound mind, memory and understanding (praised be God for it), and considering the certainty of death, and the uncertainty of the time thereof, and to the end I may be better prepared to leave this world whenever it may please God to call me home, do therefore make and declare this my last will and testament in manner following, (that is to say) first and principally I commend my soul into the hands of Almighty God, my Creator, praying for free pardon, and remission of all my sins, and to enjoy everlasting happiness in the Heavenly Kingdom through Jesus Christ, my Savior. My body I commit to the earth, at the discretion of my executor hereafter named."

Then follows the several items of the will all as properly, and at the same time as specifically expressed, as is the foregoing. Indeed, in looking over the records of the wills of that day, we are impressed with the certainty of the language of every bequest. No ambiguity, no looseness of expression on which a law suit might hinge, no possible chance for litigation and fat fees. No wasting of the estate in determining the intentions of the party, but everything plain and to the point.

A FOUL MURDER.

A Wyandot Chief, known as Sum-un-du-wat—a Christian Indian, brave, generous and kind—honored by his tribe, and respected by the whites for his honesty and bravery, was most foully murdered, with his daughter and her husband, near Napoleon, in Henry County. The event created a most profound sensation, and for some time there seemed to be danger of an outbreak amongst the Indians.

The assassins were John Anderson and James Lyons, who lived near Portage, Wood County. Anderson had tried to buy or trade for a favorite dog of the Indians,

but without success. He made the declaration that he would have the dog before another week had passed. He and Lyons followed the Indians to near Napoleon, where by the direction of one John Ellsworth, who resided about six miles west of Portage, they committed the bloody murder. They got all the money of which Sum-un-du-wat was possessed, which Snake-bone and other chiefs, declared was about six hundred dollars; also, seven ponies, a lot of furs and dogs. They returned to the house of Lyons, a little west of Portage, where they concealed the ponies and all of the dogs, except the favorite one, which Anderson appropriated as his own, and although the dog was seen in his company, no one suspected that he had obtained it by other than fair means. In the excitement after the murder, one of the ponies escaped and wandered to the camp of Snake-bone and his party. On being followed it returned to the place where the murdered Indians lay. The alarm was given, and Snake-bone and his party followed the trail to Portage, where they found and arrested Anderson and Lyons. The former was at church in the village. The Indians surrounded the building and captured him as he came out. The prisoners were conducted to Napoleon, where a preliminary examination was had, and the parties were committed to jail, but afterwards made their escape, and were never punished. At the trial Anderson turned States evidence, and related the story of the murder. He stated that they stayed with the party three days before they met with a favorable opportunity to commit the hellish deed. When the Indians arrested Lyons, they found all the dogs belonging to them, under the floor of Lyons' house. The "boys" said that Ellsworth induced them to commit the murder, and after it was done, advised them to let him have the money until the excitement should pass over, and then they would divide. But the old scoundrel took the money and fled the country.

Sum-un-du-wat was about sixty years of age. Snake-bone in his endeavors to find the murderers, was three days and nights on the trail, and such were his exertions, that he broke down from their effects, and died shortly after. This murder was but another exhibition of that devilish disposition, possessed by some, to cruelly treat the weak and unprotected, shielding themselves behind a general feeling of hostility towards a particular race. No one could truthfully point to a single act of cruelty or hostility by Sum-un-du-wat towards any white man, on the contrary, he had been the friend of the whites, and had rendered them many valuable services.

SIMON GIRTY.

One of the most notorious characters of early days in the Northwest, including Hancock County, was the white renegade, Simon Girty. He was born in northwestern Pennsylvania of an intemperate father and an unworthy mother. Simon had three brothers—Thomas, George, and James. Simon, George and James were taken prisoners by the Indians during the French and Indian War, when Simon was about eight years old, Simon was adopted by the "Senecas" and given the name of "Patepacomen." He was one of the white captives surrendered to Colonel Bouquet in

1764, but soon after escaped and returned to savage life. In 1774 he took part in Lord Dunmore's War on the side of the Virginians. Here he met Simon Kenton and the two young men soon became fast friends. He also became intimately acquainted with Colonel Crawford and was frequently a guest at his hospitable cabin.

Girty aspired to a captaincy in the regular army in 1778 but, failing in this, deserted Fort Pitt in company with fourteen others. He immediately inaugerated a reign of terror among the frontier settlers. He represented to the friendly Delawares that the white people intended killing every Indian they met; that Washington was killed and the Revolutionary Army cut to pieces; that there was no Congress, the British having hung some members and taken the rest to England. The Delawares disbelieved his story and he moved on westward to the Shawanees on the Scioto, to whom the Delaware chiefs sent word not to believe what he told them.

Girty now started for Detroit. On his way he was captured by the Wyandots. The Senecas who recognized him, demanded that he be given up to them because, having been their adopted son, he had now taken up arms against them. But Leatherlips, the Wyandot chief, ignored their claim to him. The Wyandots finally set him at liberty and he proceeded to Detroit, where Gen. Hamilton, the British commander, gave him a cordial welcome. He was now given work that suited his nature exactly. He was employed at sixteen York shillings a day and sent back to Upper Sandusky to incite and assist the Indians in their border warfare. He soon became a leader among the Wyandots and Shawanees along the head-waters of the Scioto and Sandusky rivers, in their murderous forays into the border settlement. From Pittsburg to Louisville his name carried terror all along the Ohio. Doubtless he led many a helpless victim of the frontier captive along the trails through Hancock County or danced with his dusky companions around the helpless victim burning at the stake. He was present at St. Clair's defeat in 1791 and at the battle of the Fallen Timbers in 1794. After the Treaty of Greenville, he engaged in the Indian trade at Lower Sandusky and later at "Girty's Town" on the site of St. Mary's in Mercer (now Auglaize) County. He then removed to Malden, Canada, where he settled on a farm on the Detroit River where he died in 1818, aged 70 years. For several years before his death he was nearly blind and a complete wreck.

"The last time I saw Girty," wrote William Walker, "was in the summer of 1813. From my recollection of his person he was in height five feet six or seven inches; broad across the chest; strong around; compact limbs, and of fair complexion. To any one scrutinizing him, the conclusion would forcibly impress the observer that Girty was endowed by Nature with great powers of endurance." Spencer, a prisoner among the Indians, gives this vivid description of him: "His dark shaggy hair; his low forehead; his short flat nose; his brows contracted and meeting above his short flat nose; his gray sunken eyes averting the ingenuous gaze; his lips thin and compressed; and that dark and sinister expression of his countenance

—to me seemed the very picture of a villain."

JOHNNY APPLESEEDS.

This eccentric individual, whose real name was John (or as some say, Jonathan) Chapman, was one of the well known characters in early days. He was a Swedenborgian, acting as a kind of missionary amongst the Indians, and in his perambulations through the wilderness planted the seeds of the different kinds of fruits, so that in many places in the county, there were fruit trees in great numbers and some of them already producing fruit, at its first settlement. He was supposed to be a native of Massachusetts and was regarded as an intelligent, harmless, but slightly demented man! At all times sociable, and full of pleasant story and good advice, after his fashion, he was always made welcome by the pioneers. His personal appearance was as singular as his character. He was a small chubbed man, quick and restless in his motions and conversation. He wore his hair and beard long and had a sparkling black eye. He lived the roughest life and often slept in the woods. He went barefooted, and often travelled miles through the snow in that way. Wherever he went he circulated Swedenborgian works. He was careful not to injure any animal, and thought hunting morally wrong.

During the coldest weather he refused to wear shoes and upon one occasion, when forced to accept a pair from a kind hearted farmer, he came to Mansfield, which was then but a small village and gave them to a poor family who were going west. When he first came to Ohio he accepted the castoff clothing of the settlers, but afterwards became convinced he was getting too proud and worldly and finally he adopted the coffee-sack suit, in which he died. His head was protected from Old Sol's smiles, by a tin pan, which was also used as a culinary utensil, when he was overtaken by hunger in the woods. He believed it a sin to tread upon a worm, or eat flesh of any kind during lent.

He was first seen in Ohio in 1801, and with him an old blind horse, drawing in an aged and infirm wagon a quantity of appleseeds. These seeds he planted in Eastern Ohio along the banks of rivers and creeks. Returning to Pennsylvania, Johnny disposed of his steed and equipments and gathering up several bushels of seeds at the cider presses in Western Pennsylvania he started for Ohio with them on his back. For years he kept on in the even tenor of his ways, starting orchards all over this part of the state, but when emigrants from other states began to pour in and take up the land in Ohio, poor Johnny found his occupation gone, and taking up his coffee sack moved into Indiana, where he continued to plant appleseeds for some time, until death overtook him, and he was laid away in a country churchyard a few miles from Ft. Wayne.

The following incidents are related as illustrating his eccentricities, as well as his kindness of heart. One cool autumnal night whilst lying by his camp-fire in the woods he observed that the mosquitoes flew into the blaze and were burnt. Johnny thereupon brought water and quenched the fire afterwards saying, "God forbid that I should build a fire for my comfort that should

be the means of destroying any of his creatures."

At another time he made his camp-fire at the end of a hollow log in which he intended to pass the night, but finding it occupied by a bear and her cubs he removed his fire to the other end and slept in the snow, in the open air rather than to disturb the bear.

An itinerant preacher was once holding forth on the public square in Mansfield and exclaimed, "Where is the barefooted Christian travelling to heaven?" Johnny who was lying on his back on some timber, taking the question in its literal sense, raised his bare feet in the air and shouted: "Here he is!"

JACOB NEWMAN FREE.

A very interesting eccentric character who often visited Hancock County and especially Findlay, commencing in the late fifties and down to 1906 was J. N. Free, or as he called himself, "The Immortal J. N." or "Philosopher."

He was born at Chambersburg, Pa., June 19th, 1828, of German parents, his father the Rev. Dr. John W. Free, and his mother, Mary Newman Free, being a cousin to the author of "Lead Kindly Light." The entire family of eight children lived to manhood and womanhood. Seven of them taught school. Mayor John W. Free and Henry N. Free were lawyers of Lexington, Ky., and Col. William Free was a merchant of the same city. The family moved from Pennsylvania and lived several years in Mansfield, Ohio, but later moved to McKutchinsville on a farm of 135 acres about a mile south of the village.

Jacob N. was a precocious child and his father crowded him with learning so that he was able to read and write in several different languages when he was nine years old, and graduated when quite young from the Meadville College, Penn. He was a tall, powerfully built man with long hair and a heavy moustache, high prominent cheek bones and a restless maniacal eye that seemed to fairly penetrate the object of his stare. His clothing was shabby and his hair unkept and he had the mien of a restless apprehensive man, rarely remaining long in one place; his voice was powerful, and he spoke in a style of command, short and positive. His memory, wit and sarcasm knew no bounds and woe to the man upon whom he turned these sharp tools; he fairly picked him up and spit him out, and people who had once been the subject of his ability in that line gave him a wide bearth!

Once or twice a year he would send word in advance that he would be in Findlay on a certain night and would lecture at the old courthouse; his subject, that he would "Lift the veil and disseminate the truth." Sometimes he came and sometimes not. If he appeared he would wait on the outside until the audience were seated and there were generally plenty of seats and to spare —when he would enter the house, walk up the aisle in a dignified manner, ascend the platform, reach in his pockets and pull out a couple of Colt revolvers and a couple of pairs of handcuffs and, after slamming them down on the desk before him with some violence, and some offhand remarks about them, would then commence his desultory and incoherent address.

After the war a favorite theme of his was, "The North thought the South was wrong and the South thought the North was wrong. Both were wrong; both were right."

He would wait until the next day to see what the local papers said of his speech the previous evening and seemed to enjoy a severe roasting with more relish than a favorable compliment. He took a copy of the paper with him and was generally burdened with a roll under his arm about the size of a stove pipe. Sometimes the boys in strange towns would tease him by trying to take away his newspapers but he would kindly give them a few pennies, thus making them his fast friends.

The story of this harmless mild maniac is as follows: Having studied law and being considered a man of immense ability he was considered a fine catch by the young ladies of his acquaintance. His special attention was attracted to a very beautiful young blonde, and winning her heart she became his fiancee. But young Free was poor and he determined that before he married such a noble lady he would accumulate a small fortune. So at the age of twenty-one he joined the "Forty-niners" in their search for gold in California. He and a partner were successful in the "digging" and soon bought mule teams to transport provisions and other mining supplies to the mines in the interior, hoarding their gold in their shack, and one of the partners staying with it while the other drove the mule team. One day "J. N." returning from his trip found that his partner had departed with the entire treasure, the savings of many days and nights of labor and exposure. Young Free followed the thief to New York where he found that he sold the gold and departed for Europe. Free could not expect to catch him in those days, but put an attachment on the gold, but at the trial, which he conducted with marvelous logic and eloquence he could not prove that the gold was his, as there was no private mark on it; or, if there had been, it had been removed. Neither could he prove that his share of the gold had been stolen. He lost the trial, he lost his gold, he lost his bride, he lost faith in humanity, he lost his mental balance and became a wanderer throughout the length and breadth of his native land for fifty-six years. But in all this time he paid no carfare or hotel bill. He would go to the railroad officials and procure a pass on one pretext or another, they being unable to refuse because of his importunity and the uniqueness of the claim upon which his right to the favor was based.

Some were dated for a trip, some for a year and some for life. Some were given for "Opening the eyes of the blind to the Pearly Gates of Heaven" for "Lifting the Veil of truth"; as a "Philosopher traveling for the dissemination of knowledge and various other themes; but always claiming that the people were not ready for him yet, but that when they were he would "lift the pressure."

This "Pressure" so frequently spoken of by him, referred to the state of mind or spirit of the one addressed; whether happy and inclined to lightness and charity (especially towards himself) or melancholy and parsimonious. When sad he advised the lifting of the veil to "let the sunshine in."

Once he received a pass by way of a joke

from a railroad official to walk over the ties from a certain place to another. When the conductor came in to take up the fares "J. N." commenced to walk rapidly from one end of the car to the other. When asked for his fare he presented this paper. "But," said the conductor, "this is not a pass to ride on this car, it is a pass to walk over the ties." "Am I not walking over the ties?" queried "J. N." as he rapidly resumed his walk. The conductor was so paralyzed by his wit and the stern commanding authority, that he did not further insist on the payment of a fare. The same tactics were practiced on the hotel keepers as on the railroad officials.

The writer remembers of hearing him telling a story of his stopping at a hotel for three days at two dollars a day! The landlord not wishing to lose the whole bill thought of a compromise by offering to throw off the half and take three dollars instead of six dollars, the entire amount. "Very charitable," said 'J. N.,' and it would be ill-bred in me to not return the favor by throwing off the other half of the bill, I never allow a man to excell me in favors."

The landlord had perhaps anticipated something of the kind, retorted by asking "J. N." if he would not partake of a light meal prepared for him in the dining room, to which "J. N." willingly assented. Upon entering the dining room the landlord invited "J. N." to be seated at a small table upon which there were four brightly burning lamps together with a plate, knife, fork, and spoon and a glass of water. For once in his life he was beaten and the "pressure" was heavy on himself. Page upon page might be written of the anecdotes of this strange personage, but the above serves to illustrate his style and manner. Along in the seventies, he and his brother Henry traveled together, selling his lightning calculator, a table he had copyrighted to aid in adding rapidly. Figures could be put down no matter how large or how many and he would write the answer down as fast as his hand could move. "J. N." would get the crowd and Henry sell the calculator.

While the ex-confederate president, Jefferson Davis, was confined in a casement of Fortress Monroe, "J. N." called and asked to see him and contrary to all strict orders obtained entrance to the apartment of the noted prisoner. Nothing seemed to please him better than to exhibit the newspapers containing a paragraph that Jefferson Davis had been visited by a lunatic.

Thousands of persons in all the states of the union were acquainted with "The Immortal J. N., Philosopher." Many times during his life his death was published in the papers and many were the amusing remarks he made upon seeing and reading them himself. Thus lived and died one of the most notable men of this section. His memory was faultless and if he ever met a person he never forgot his name or his face, but could call him by name and name the place of meeting without mistake, and had he not met with mental infirmity his name might have gone down to posterity as one of the intellectual giants of the age. As it is, he is kindly remembered by all who met and became acquainted with him.

His death occurred at the State Hospital for the Insane at Toledo, O., on June 26, 1906, and he was buried at McKutchinsville, Ohio. Peace to the memory of the kind old philosopher.

CHAPTER VII.

TRANSPORTATION.

First Roads and Bridges—Steam Railroads—Electric Roads.

The first roads in the county were for years scarcely more than blazed paths through the woods. Very many places would have been utterly impassable had it not been for a system of bridging, then extensively indulged in, known as "corduroy." This was a kind of railroad in which the position of the ties and rails on an ordinary railroad were reversed. That is, the ties were laid lengthwise and the rails crosswise. But as timber was abundant, and not much attention was paid to the smoothness of the road, they were not so very expensive.

Among the records of the county for 1829 is found the following, which was presented at the June session of the commissioners:

"A petition being presented by sundry citizens of Hancock County, praying for a county road, commencing at the county line at John Smith's farm, running thence a northwesterly direction to John Longs, in Section One, thence to cross Blanchard Fork at or near John J. Hendricks, thence to run down the river to the mouth of the three-mile run, thence to the nearest and best direction to Findlay, which was granted, and John Huff, John J. Hendricks and William Moreland were appointed viewers, and William Taylor, Surveyor." On the 16th of September the commissioners met in special session to receive the report of the viewers of said road. Report received and the road established. This road is the one now known as the Findley and Vanlue road, which crosses the river at the farm of William Wyer.

Again in August, 1839, the county commissioners met for the purpose of apportioning the amount of three per cent fund on the several state roads, and the record says: "Whereupon it is agreed on by said commissioners that the aforesaid amount of money appropriated, shall be laid out on the following roads, to-wit: The road leading from Bellefontaine to Perrysburg, and the road leading from Upper Sandusky through Findlay to Defiance, which work is to be performed in cutting out said roads, thirty-two feet wide, all timber twenty inches in diameter, and clearing the ground of all timber."

Another petition was presented to the commissioners July 21, 1831, "Humbly representing that it would but conduce much to the public convenience if a county road was established between the following points, to-wit: Beginning at the west end of Main Cross Street, in the village of Findlay (at a point where West Street crosses Main Cross Street,

at the residence of Mrs. Dr. Detwiler), thence on the nearest and best route to Solomon Foglesong's improvement on Toway Creek, thence on the nearest and best route in direction of Toway Village (now Ottawa, Putnam County), to the county line." This is now one of the best roads in the county.

After these followed the location and opening up of the Tiffin, Port Clinton, New Haven, Lima and other important roads. In fact, for the first ten years after the organization of the county, the principal part of the business of the Board of Commissioners, was to receive petitions for, and confirm reports of reviewers and surveyor of county roads. Such has been the desire of the people, and the acts of the commissioners, that we have now public highways running by and bordering on almost every farm in the county, thus affording to everyone an easy and convenient means of communicating with his neighbors.

The "Road from Fort Meigs, or the foot of the Rapids of the Miami of the Lake (Maumee), to Bellefontaine, opened December 11, 1829." This is the road now known as the Perrysburg and Bellefontaine state road, which crosses the county from north to south, and divides it into two almost equal parts. This road was laid out on and near "Hull's Trail."

The commissioners of Wood County, on the 6th day of June, 1826, "Ordered that four hundred dollars of the road fund be appropriated for Hancock County, to be expended on the Urbana road in said county." This road was the Perrysburg and Bellefontaine road.

BRIDGES.

For many years the inhabitants of the county contented themselves by bridging the smaller streams and water courses, wherever absolutely necessary, and then only with a temporary structure, barely answering the purpose of its building, without a thought of bridging the river. The latter seemed to them so immense an undertaking that no one dared mention such a project. In 1841, when it was seriously contemplated to build a bridge across the river at Findlay, the matter was deemed of so much importance, that this order was made: "Ordered that the auditor instruct the assesors to take the vote of the people as to the propriety of laying a tax of eight hundred dollars for building a bridge across Blanchard River in Findlay." How the voters of the county decided the matter does not appear by the records, but the inference is, that they "seconded the motion," for in March, 1842, the following resolution was passed by the county commissioners: *"Resolved,* That the auditor receive proposals for building two bridges across Blanchard River, one at Findlay, and the other at the crossing on the Fidlay and New Haven State road (known as the Marvin Bridge), until the first day of April next, agreeable to the plans now in this office, as submitted to the commissioners, one half the pay in January, 1843, and the other half in one year thereafter." On opening the bids, at a special session, January 7, 1843, for the completion of the extension of the bridge across the river at Findlay, it was found that James Robinson was the lowest bidder, and the contract was awarded to him.

In the proceedings of the commissioners at a special session in March, 1843, it was "Ordered that the auditor of Hancock County, Ohio, inquire into the cause why the bridge across the Blanchard Fork of the Auglaize River, at Findlay, is not completed agreeable to contract by S. Carinn and H. Eaton, and if

no good cause is shown, institute a suit against said contractors, and employ counsel if necessary." June 1, 1843, the commissioners "Ordered that the auditor of Hancock County enter a suit against the contractors of the bridge at Findlay, by the first of July next, if the same is not by that time finished to the satisfaction of the commissioners."

It is fair to presume that the bridge was finished to the "satisfaction of the commissioners," as there is no record of a suit being brought. The bridge was a wooden structure, known as a trestle bridge, the superstructure being supported by wooden trestles, placed, perhaps, twenty feet apart. The finish was of the plainest kind, only ordinary railing, no cover, no paint.

In 1850 the contract for a new and better bridge across the Blanchard, was let to Jesse Wheeler, William Klamroth and Edwin B. Vail, for the sum of fifteen hundred dollars. It too, was a wooden structure, but of a different plan, not only more pretentious in appearance, but a much more substantial piece of work. It consisted of two spans, being supported at the ends by massive stone abutments, with a pier in the centre, of the same material. The sides were elevated, it being a truss-bridge and inclosed, and the whole covered with a shingle roof. There was a double track for wagons, with a foot path on either side. The bridge when finished and opened for travel, was regarded as a superb piece of work.

But in time, this structure wore out, and decayed, and the business and travel of the county demanded a better bridge. One that would not only answer the purpose for which it should be intended, but which would also be an honor to the county, and an ornament to the county seat. In 1873 the old bridge was torn down and the Canton Iron Bridge Company, under contract with the county commissioners erected a substantial iron bridge, at a cost to the county of about thirteen thousand dollars. This bridge erected in 1873 was among the first iron bridges built in the county, and was allowed to do service until 1889 when it was removed to a point about a mile west of Miami Street, and re-erected over the river north of the cemetery. Previous to the building of any of these bridges, the river was crossed by canoes when too high for teams to be driven across.

At the March session in 1839, John Byal, Aquilla Gilbert and Daniel Fairchild, commissioners, "Ordered that there be appropriated for building a bridge across Eagle Creek, at what is now called the Upper Ford, or where the Milmore and Findlay State road crosses the creek, the sum of ten dollars, provided, there is a good and sufficient bridge erected thereon before the first day of November next." This bridge was to be built where the Sandusky Street bridge now is. What would our friends in East Findlay, and in the eastern part of the county say to a ten dollar bridge at that place now. But they must remember, that when this order was passed, that the place designated for the bridge, was a considerable distance out in the country.

In 1845, the sum of $940 was expended in the county for bridges. Numerous bridges, wooden structures, were built across the river at various times, and were gradually replaced by other and better structures, until now there are not less than thirteen good, substantial bridges spanning the Blanchard river within the limits of the county. Besides these, there are scores of smaller iron and wooden structures spanning the numerous creeks and water courses. The value of these bridges, is quite

considerable, and their convenience to the population, cannot be estimated.

STEAM RAILROADS.

On April 26th, 1839, at a special session of the county commissioners it was "Ordered that we, the commissioners, agree to subscribe one hundred shares, amounting to one hundred thousand dollars, to the capital stock of the Bellefontaine and Perrysburg Railroad, and that in our incorporate capacity, we will place our signatures to the books of the company for that amount.

JOHN BYAL,
DANIEL FAIRCHILD,
Commissioners.

With all our wealth and population, at the present, no such liberal terms towards any railroad project would be entertained by our commissioners. At the same meeting, for it seems that the commissioners meant business, it was ordered "That we appoint a special commissioner to negotiate the loan on the credit of the county, in the City of New York, or elsewhere, at the rate of interest not to exceed six per cent per annum," and it was "Ordered that Parlee Carlin be delegated our special agent, to negotiate the loan of one hundred thousand dollars which we have this day subscribed to the capital of the Bellefontaine and Perrysburg Railroad Company." Thus ends the history of this railroad, so far as this county is concerned. Like an innumerable number of such projects, it ended in talk, and futile resolutions and orders.

In 1845 the railroad fever again broke out in the couuty, and the commissioners went earnestly to work to make some project a success. They were not wholly disappointed, for they set on foot a movement, which finally resulted in the building of the Findlay Branch of the Mad River and Lake Erie Railroad, as it was then called.

On the 4th day of March, 1845, George Shaw, Peter George and John Lafferty, commissioners, issued a proclamation to the qualified voters of Hancock County to vote at the election of the first Monday of April, 1845, for or against a proposition to subscribe to the capital stock of the Mad River and Lake Erie Railroad and that the auditor have said proclamation published in three newspapers published in Findlay, until the April election. The returns of said election were made and counted and certified as follows:

	For	Against
Washington Township	6	135
Amanda Township	30	87
Jackson Township	40	50
Cass Township	31	83
Findlay Township	243	4
Eagle Township	67	39
Van Buren Township	6	36
Union Township	121	4
Pleasant Township	44	2
Big Lick Township	55	26
Delaware Township	1	121
Marion Township	107	5
Portage Township	65	61
Liberty Township	120	5
Madison Township	..	64
Orange Township	17	41
Blanchard Township	102	1
Totals	1,055	784

On April 11, 1845, the commissioners, in their corporate capacity subscribed to the capital stock of the Mad River and Lake Erie Railroad Company, twelve hundred shares, of

fifty dollars a share, making in all, the sum of sixty thousand dollars. Wilson Vance, William Taylor, John Patterson and William Henderson were appointed agents to meet with the railroad company, and they were authorized to employ a special messenger to go to Perrysburg to get the bonds printed in a neat manner, at as reasonable a compensation as they could agree upon.

On April 22, 1845, the commissioners, in special session, issued bonds for the sum of thirty thousand dollars, payable to the Mad River and Lake Erie Railroad Company, as first payment of sixty thousand dollars subscribed. At the June session of the commissioners, John Ewing and Jacob Barnd were added to the railroad company commissioners.

On September 11, 1845, the County Commissioners subscribed three hundred shares, amounting to fifteen thousand dollars, in addition to the sixty thousand dollars already subscribed. At the same time, Squire Carlin was appointed railroad commissioner in place of Jacob Barnd, deceased.

On August 19, 1846, the Mad River and Lake Erie Railroad Company accepted the subscription of seventy-five thousand dollars, and agreed to build the road. On September 22, 1846, the Commissioners of the County appointed John Ewing, John Patterson and Hiram Smith Commissioners to manage its construction.

The road, however, was not completed and put in operation until the latter part of December, 1849. This road, commencing at Findlay, takes a south-easterly course through Findlay, Marion and Amanda. Townships, to Carey, Wyandot County. It crosses the Blanchard River in Marion Township. It is about sixteen miles in length, and was originally constructed on a cheap plan. The iron rails were simply strap iron, as it was termed, laid on stringers, placed lengthwise on the roadbed. In this condition it remained for many years, always paying large dividends to the company, but furnishing very inferior accommodations to the county. Finally, however, by an arrangement entered into, between the officers of the road and the county commissioners, the company agreed to (and did) repair the road, lay the track with "T" rails, and build a passenger house at Findlay.

In 1853, at the time the Dayton and Michigan Railroad project was under consideration, it was supposed, and perhaps promised, that Findlay should be one of the points on the route, and our people became enthusiastic over the matter. In July, 1853, the commissioners of the county subscribed one hundred thousand dollars to the capital stock of the company. A preliminary survey was made of the line, and we felt reasonably sure of the road. In this we were disappointed. The management, for some reason, selected a route farther west, missing this county entirely, and thus ended this railroad project, so far as Hancock County was concerned. The road was built on a line farther west, and has proved a paying investment, a good business road, but no more so than it would have been, had the route through our county been chosen. And the road would have been of immense advantage to us.

After it was definitely settled that we were not to have the Dayton Michigan road, or about that time, a project to build a road

from Fremont, in Sandusky County, to Union City, a town on the line of Ohio, and Indiana, by way of Findlay and Lima began to be agitated. Henry Brown, Esq., the editor of the "Hancock Courier," of Findlay, taking the lead in the matter, and setting forth in glowing terms the advantage to be derived from such a line of road. Finally the matter took form and a company was organized and chartered under the name of the "Fremont and Indiana Railroad Company" to construct a road from Fremont, Ohio, to Union City, on the Indiana line, by way of Findlay and Lima. A survey of the route was made, which was decided to be practicable. Subscription books were opened, and stock readily subscribed. The principal stockholders in Findlay were Judge Corey, S. and P. Carlin and Bass Rowson. Judge Corey and Squire Carlin were directors. After much delay, caused by the difficulty in collecting subscriptions, and inability to procure iron, the road was not completed to Findlay until 1861. About this time, the company became embarrassed, and the road was sold. The purchasers organized a new line company, under the name of the "Fremont, Lima & Union Railroad Company," and this company, in 1865, consolidated with the Lake Erie & Pacific Railroad Company, under the name of the Lake Erie & Louisville R. R. Company, but the road was not completed and operated to Lima until about the winter of 1873. From that time until 1878 the road was operated, most of the time being in the hands of the receiver.

Some shrewd eastern capitalists seeing the advantage of such a line, bought the road, and at once set themselves to work to develop its resourses. They extended the line from Celina, in Mercer County, Ohio, to Muncie, Indiana, thus making good western connections, also connecting with Chicago. The name of the road was changed to that of Lake Erie & Western, the better to erpress its intentions. Connections were sought and obtained with St. Louis. The road was extended from Fremont to Sandusky City, on Lake Erie, and to-day this is regarded as a "Trunk Line," and the business has brought it well up to the front. This road enters the county at Fostoria, in Section 1, Washington Township, then runs in a southwest direction, passing through the townships of Cass, Washington, Marion, Findlay, Liberty, Eagle, Union and Orange, and crossing into Allen County at Bluffton. There is about twenty-five miles of the road in Hancock County, and its business at Findlay and other points, amounts to many thousands of dollars.

The citizens of McComb and vicinity, having been several times disappointed in their expectations of the completion of the Continental Road, which had been graded through their town, conceived the idea of building a line of roads to intersect the Dayton & Michigan at Deshler, about eight miles distant, went to work earnestly in the matter, and having made satisfactory arrangements with the Dayton & Michigan, organized a company to construct the McComb and Findlay Railroad. The work was pushed rapidly forward, and the road completed in January, 1881. About sixteen miles of this road is in Hancock County.

The New York, Chicago & St. Louis com-

pany was incorporated in 1880 to construct a line from Buffalo to Chicago, and having bought up the right of way and graded line of the "Continental Railway," extending from Tiffin, Ohio, to Ft. Wayne, Ind., built the road from Fostoria to Arcadia, where striking the Continental roadbed they followed it through McComb, and westward to Ft. Wayne and on to Chicago. Findlay made an effort to get this road into town, but it passes about four miles to the north, yet all trains are met at Mortimer by the Findlay street car service which delivers passengers from Findlay to Mortimer and vice versa.

The McComb, Deshler & Toledo Railroad Company was incorporated June 2, 1879, by a number of McComb citizens, and on November 24, 1880, the first train ran into McComb. Later the branch was extended to Findlay and is now known as the C. H. & D. branch.

The Toledo, Columbus & Southern railroad was chartered in May, 1881, and in the winter of 1881-2, the right of way was obtained from Toledo to Findlay. The work was commenced in the summer of 1882. The first rail was laid December 15th, and the first locomotive ran into Bowling Green from Toledo on Christmas day. January 30, 1883, the connecting rail was laid some fifteen miles north of Findlay in Wood County, which connected Findlay with Toledo. The first through train came over the road from Toledo to Findlay February 7, 1883. The road extended south to Columbus in 1886.

The Toledo & Ohio Central, as it is known, extends from Toledo to Corning, via Columbus, Ohio.

The Cleveland, Delphos & St. Louis Railroad was chartered March 9, 1881, and during the summer work was commenced. The road from Bluffton to Arlington was completed early in the fall of 1882, and in December the construction train reached Mt. Blanchard. Early in the spring of 1883 it run its trains to Carey. This line is now known as the Northern Ohio.

The American Midland Railroad was commenced and constructed through the western part of this county in 1888. Its eastern terminus is Findlay, O., and the western terminus is Ft. Wayne, Ind. About 1902 the road passed into the hands of the C., H. & D., and just recently been purchased by the Baltimore & Ohio system.

ELECTRIC ROADS.

Findlay and Hancock County now have three electric interurban lines; the Western Ohio from Lima; the Toledo, Bowlingreen and Southern from Findlay to Toledo via Bowlingreen, and the Toledo, Fostoria & Findlay, from Findlay to Toledo, via Fostoria.

With seven points of ingress and egress by steam and three by electric roads Hancock County is fairly well provided for as to transportation of passengers and freight.

CHAPTER VIII.

THE COUNTY'S MILITARY RECORD.

The War of 1812—The Mexican War—The Civil War—Spanish-American War.

THE WAR OF 1812.

Almost a century has passed since the arrogance of the English government in its dealings with this republic brought on the War of 1812. And though the struggle ended more than five years before the erection of this county, the territory embraced within the limits of the latter was directly affected in the earliest stages of the war.

As the consequence of England's arbitrary action in enforcing the "right of search" in impressing American seamen; her restrictions upon commerce, and her instigations of revolt against the United States by the Indians, Congress on the 4th of June, 1812, passed a resolution declaring war against England; on the 17th of the same month the bill passed the senate, and two days afterwards President Madison issued the proclamation.

Ohio had been preparing for the conflict, and troops had already begun assembling at Dayton, Springfield, Urbana and other points, in obedience to the call of Governor Meigs. General William Hull was appointed to the chief command of the state troops, and on June 16th the army left Urbana on its march toward the Maumee Rapids, Colonel Duncan McArthur being ordered in advance to open a road through the forest from the Greenville Treaty Line to the Scioto River. Here they erected a fort comprised of two blockhouses and named it Fort McArthur, in honor of the officer whose regiment had opened the road. The rest of the army arrived at the fort June 19th; and on the 21st Colonel James Findlay was ordered to open the road as far as Blanchard's Fork. Proceeding on his mission, he arrived at a point just north of what is now the county line between Hancock and Hardin Counties. Here on account of rain and mud he was compelled to discontinue his march and erect a blockhouse, which was called Fort Necessity. This fort was constructed on the southwest quarter of the southwest quarter of Section 36, Township 2, south, Range 10 east, Madison Township, now owned by Fannie Isenberger. It has been stated that this fort was erected about half a mile west of the Perrysburg and Bellefontaine state road. However, the government survey of 1819 locates the site of the fort within five chains (twenty rods) of the southwest quarter of Section 36, which is seven-eighths of a mile west of the above mentioned road. From this point Colonel Findlay moved to the Blanchard's Fork, and here erected a

fort, which was named in honor of that officer. Here the army encamped for some time, while Colonel Findlay proceeded to advance and opened the road as far as the Maumee River.

From Fort Necessity what is commonly known as "Hull's Trail," followed the west bank of the east branch of Eagle Creek to near its junction with the west branch, crossing the latter and continuing down the west side of Eagle Creek to Fort Findlay. Here it crossed the river, and thence ran northward, a short distance east of the Perrysburg and Bellefontaine state road, till reaching the highlands south of the middle branch of the Portage river; thence following the course of that stream northward, into what is now Wood County, and thence to the Maumee Rapids. Some pioneer settlers expressed doubt as to Fort Necessity being formed by erecting a Blockhouse, claiming they never heard it mentioned as other than a mud fort. But taking American State papers as authority, there evidently was a blockhouse of some sort erected at that place.

General Hull on leaving Fort Findlay, left behind a small garrison under Captain Arthur Thomas, to complete and guard the fort, which was well calculated to successfully resist any ordinary force which might be brought against it. It stood on the south bank of the Blanchard River in Findlay, at what is now the northwest corner of Main and Front Streets, the southeast blockhouse being located on the site of the present Cusac block.

The fort consisted of a stockade about ten feet in height, with a two-story blockhouse built of round logs, at each corner. The enclosure was fifty yards square, the entrance or gate being on the east side. A ditch surrounded the stockade, the earth from the excavation having been thrown up against the pickets to give them added strength. The outer walls of the blockhouses projected a short distance from the stockade and the upper story of each extended a few feet over the lower one, thus commanding the approaches from every direction. Each blockhouse was thoroughly loopholed and furnished with one piece of artillery. Within the enclosure a number of cabins for the use of the soldiers were erected along the stockade, the open space in the center being utilized as a parade ground. To guard against surprise from attacks of the enemy the forest was cleared off for a considerable distance on the south, east and west of the fort while the river on the north afforded a clear view.

Some pioneer testimony has been formerly published showing some difference of opinion in regard to the number of blockhouses which Fort Findlay originally contained. The earliest settlers, however, testify to having seen three blockhouses in a fair state of preservation and the one at the northwest corner partly destroyed. Later comers noticed only the one standing at the southeast corner of the fort, which was used for some time by Wilson Vance as a stable. There is testimony showing, however, that when Mr. Benjamin Cox came to Fort Findlay, three of the blockhouses were still standing and were occupied by Wyandot Indian families. The probabilities are that the portions of the stockades and blockhouses which were not in existence when some of the later settlers arrived had been torn down and utilized for firewood and in erecting outbuildings.

"The passing years have removed and utterly obliterated all traces of Fort Findlay, due no doubt to the rapid progress of civilization. But,

how sad, to think that where once stood one of the earliest structures which marked the first noble and daring stride toward civil liberty and Christian civilization, not even a wooden headboard is now visible to mark the solemn and sacred ground where died the noblest relic which ever graced the soil of our fair city, not as much on account of any great achievement that had ever been obtained, but from the motive which prompted its erection."

In July, 1812, General Edward W. Tupper, of Gallia County, raised a force of 1,000 men for six months' service, principally from Gallia, Lawrence and Jackson Counties, who, under orders of General Winchester, rendezvoused at Urbana. From there General Tupper folfollowed Hull's trail to Fort McArthur, where he established his base of supplies, and then marched northward to Fort Findlay. After a much needed rest, his command pushed on to the foot of the Maumee Rapids. The Indians appearing in force on the opposite bank of the Maumee River. Tupper attempted to cross the river and attack them, but the rapidity of the current and the feeble, half-starved condition of his men and horses rendered the attempt a failure. The enemy soon after took the offensive, and, crossing the Maumee, attacked the American camp, but were defeated and driven back with considerable loss. This defeat caused them to retreat hastily to Detroit and Tupper subsequently marched back to Fort Findlay and thence to Fort McArthur.

The following anecdote in connection with the Fort, is found in "Howe's Historical Collection:"

"About nine o'clock one dark and windy night in the late war, Captain William Oliver, in company with a Kentuckian, left Fort Meigs for Fort Findlay, on an errand of importance, the distance being about thirty-three miles. They had scarcely started on their dreary and perilous journey when they unexpectedly came upon an Indian camp, around the fires of which the Indians were busy cooking their supper. Disturbed by the noise of their approach, the savages sprang up and ran toward them. At this they reined their horses into the branches of a fallen tree. Fortunately the horses, as if conscious of the danger, stood perfectly still and the Indians passed around the tree without making any discovery in the thick darkness. At this juncture Oliver and his companion put spurs to their horses and dashed forward into the woods through which they passed all the way to their point of destination. They arrived safely, but with their clothing completely torn off by the branches and brushes, and their bodies bruised all over by coming in contact with the trees. They had scarcely arrived at the fort when the Indians in pursuit made their appearance, but too late, for their prey had escaped."

During the occupation of Fort Findlay, which lasted until the spring of 1815, a man named Thorp kept a small sutler store immediately east of the fort. Soon after the war closed the fort was abandoned, and its garrison returned to peaceful avocations.

THE MEXICAN WAR.

The direct cause of the Mexican war was the disputed territory lying between the Nueces and Rio Grande rivers, Texas, having won its independence, and been admitted into the union, claimed the Rio Grande as the boundary line, while the Mexican authorities disputed this claim, asserting that it was the Nueces river. The United States government proposed to settle the contro-

versy by peaceful negotiations, but Mexico scornfully refused, and made threats of occupying the territory in dispute.

To be prepared for any contingency, in March, 1846, General Taylor was ordered to advance to the Rio Grande with a few thousand men, which he had organized at Corpus Christi, near the mouth of the River Nueces. He erected Fort Brown opposite Matamoras, which was accepted by Mexico as a declaration of war, and on the 20th of April, 1846, General Arista, the Mexican commander on the Rio Grande, notified General Taylor that hostilities had begun. On the same day a small force of American cavalry was attacked by the Mexicans on the east side of the Rio Grande, and here occurred the first bloodshed of the war. Hancock County was then very thinly settled and when the call for troops reached this portion of Ohio the quota of the county was full. A company, however, was recruited from Hancock and Putman Counties and offered to the government, which replied that their services were not needed. However, a dozen or more from this county went to the war, but the greater part of them enlisted in outside companies and there being no enumeration returns to show just who went from this county, it is impossible to give a full list of names, but it is known that the following residents of this county enlisted: Allen Royce, H. Jeremiah Yates, Loami Farmer, and Dr. Wm. D. Carlin. Mr. Carlin was commissioned as assistant surgeon in the Fifteenth United States Regulars, April 9, 1847. But the surgeon having other duties which required the most of his time, Mr. Carlin, by active service, though not in name, filled the position of surgeon. His commission was signed by James K. Polk, then president of the United States. The news of the victorious entry of the American Army under Scott into the City of Mexico, on September 14, 1847, which was hailed with patriotic enthusiasm all over the county, in spite of the adverse comment of some of the Whig leaders, who bitterly denounced the war, which they regarded as a party scheme for the extension of slavery.

THE CIVIL WAR.

The surrender of Fort Sumter, on April 14, 1861, marked the beginning of a new era in the history of our country. It brought to a final and decisive issue the long-vexed questions of State Rights and Slavery and inaugurated a crucial test by which the solidity and perpetuity of the republican form of government was to be definitely ascertained. The tension between the opposing parties in the nation had finally reached the breaking-point; the slender cord of mutual interest snapped, and, with desperate resolution on one side, and firm, resourceful, patriotic purpose on the other, the Titanic struggle was begun.

Never since the days of the Revolution were the people of this county, this state, this nation so thoroughly aroused as when the news flashed over the wires of Major Anderson's capitulation. From all sections of the free states, regardless of political affiliations, voices went up with fierce determination to defend and preserve the Union. Volunteer companies sprang into existence as if by magic, and large amounts were contributed by state legislatures, private corporations and individuals to defray the expenses of the coming struggle for national unity, Hancock county was in harmony with

the patriotic sentiments of the nation and enthusiastic expressions of loyalty to our time-honored flag fell from the lips of old and young. Findlay, being the county seat, was the principal point where public sentiment found outward expression and the action taken here will serve to illustrate the patriotism of the people throughout the county.

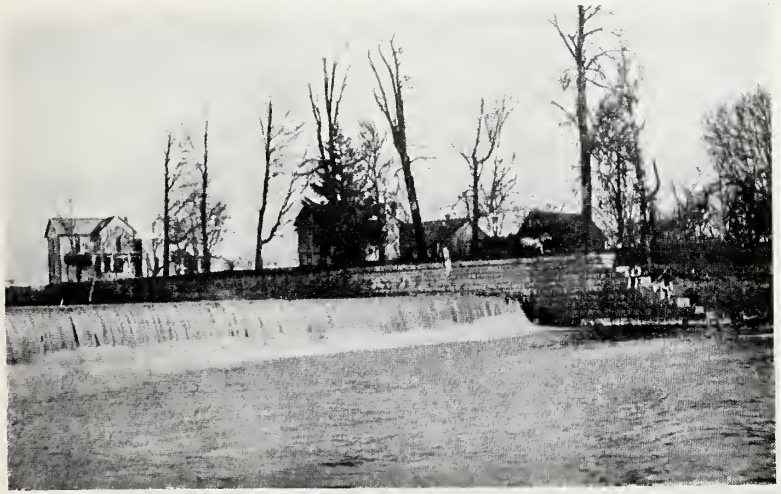
Early on the morning of April 17, 1861, a few national flags were thrown out to the breeze, the sight of which seemed to kindle a patriotic fire in every heart. Presently a large American banner was suspended across Main Street from the court house to Reed's Hotel. The town soon began to present a lively appearance, and when the band headed by the Stars and Stripes commenced promenading Main Street the martial spirit in many loyal hearts broke forth in cheers. About 10 o'clock a. m., a cannon, owned by the local Democratic organization, was brought forth and accompanied by several hundred citizens on foot and horseback was taken across the river and a salute of thirty-four shots fired in honor of the Union. Enthusiasm was abundant, and party lines were entirely forgotten. Towards noon another large banner was suspended across Main Street, and flags of every size were floating from nearly every business block and numerous private residences. Two liberty poles were raised in the afternoon on the opposite corners of Main and Main Cross Streets and the American flag run up on each. Afterwards other poles were raised from fifty to eighty feet in height and mounted with the Stars and Stripes.

On the following afternoon, pursuant to a call issued April 17th, an enthusiastic assemblage of citizens convened at the court house. Edson Goit was made chairman and Philip Ford and S. J. Mills appointed secretaries. Mr. Goit on taking the chair delivered a patriotic speech, which was frequently interrupted by outbursts of applause. He said the government should be sustained at all hazards and the man who in this emergency opposed the execution of the laws should be denounced as a traitor. On motion of J. M. Palmer, a committee consisting of Messrs. Aaron Blackford, J. M. Palmer, A. P. Byal, W. W. Siddall and Israel Green was appointed to draft resolutions expressing the sentiment of the meeting. During the absence of the committee the enthusiasm was kept at fever heat by patriotic soul-stirring and at the same time appropriate music and speeches. The band played Hail Columbia, and the Star Spangled Banner was called for and sung by Messrs. N. Y. Mifford, Dwella M. Stoughton and William Mungen, the vast audience rising and joining in the chorus. Cheers were given after each verse by the assembled multitude till the very building seemed to join in the enthusiastic patriotism of the people and echo back their sentiments.

A brief speech was made by James A. Bope, denouncing treason and secession and calling upon all to rally around the flag. Amidst frequent applause William Mungen declared himself "in favor of our country, right or wrong." The time, he said, was now past for party questions, and as a Democrat of the strictest school, he asserted that in the present alarming condition of the country, political questions should be forgotten. William Gribben, who followed, said that armed traitors had conspired together for the destruction of our government, that our national flag had been insulted and trampled upon by the enemies of our country, and declared that the honor of the glorious old banner should be up-

LANDING, RIVERSIDE PARK, FINDLAY

RIVERSIDE DRIVING PARK, FINDLAY



RIVERSIDE PARK DAM, FINDLAY

RESIDENTIAL SECTION OF HARDIN STREET, FINDLAY

held. At this point the committee on resolutions presented the following report, which was adopted amid vociferous applause:

"Whereas, A band of armed traitors to the government of the United States have leagued together for the avowed purpose of overthrowing the constitution and laws of our beloved country, and to insult and strike down the ensign of our nation, which has given to the American citizen ample protection at home and abroad, and to our country consideration and dignity wherever its stars and stripes have been seen and known, and

"Whereas, In pursuance of such treasonable intent, those traitors have once struck down that glorious flag, and now threaten with a myrmidon host in arms to seize our national capital, to trail our nation's honor in the dust and transform this free government into a cruel monarchy; therefore,

"Resolved, That whatever differences of opinion have divided us in the past, today we are united and are animated by one purpose, and that is an unyielding and undying devotion to the Union, and determination to stand by the government and the flag of our country. Living we stand shoulder to shoulder and fight in their defense; dying we bequeath this purpose to our children.

"Resolved, That in the present civil war so wantonly begun by traitors now in arms against our government the only issue presented to every American citizen is: Shall our constitutional government stand against the rebel and revolutionary force that now threatens its destruction? Or shall it yield to treason for a despotism to be erected upon its ruins. 'He that is not with us is against us.'

"Resolved, That as our revolutionary fathers, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence eventually pledged to each other their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor for the purchase of these civil and religious liberties by them transmitted to us, and that we have so long enjoyed, we, their descendants, with a firm reliance upon the same Divine and all-protecting Power, mutually make the same sacred pledge to each other for the preservation and perpetuity of that inestimable inheritance by them bequeathed to us."

Upon the adoption of the foregoing resolution Judge Palmer addressed the meeting in an eloquent speech full of patriotic devotion. James M. Neibling was then called for and began by saying that fourteen years before, when only a boy, he shouldered his musket at the call of his country to assist in chastising Mexican arrogance, and he was ready to go again if his country's cause demanded his services. This declaration was received with unbounded applause. After some further remarks upon the necessity of union and immediate action he presented the roll of enlistment for volunteers, under the call of President Lincoln for 75,000 men, issued three days before. In a very short time seventy-two names were down upon the roll, and the meeting then adjourned with cheers and expressions of loyalty to the flag. The volunteers were formed into line by Colonel Neibling and escorted by the band, marched down Main Street and disbanded to meet for another rally on Tuesday, April 23, which had been previously announced.

On that day people came from every part of the county, all seeming to be moved by the one prevailing sentiment of loyalty. Nothing was talked of but the defense and preservation of the Union. And in this great cause none were more deeply interested than the old gray-headed veterans who had so long enjoyed its blessings. Scores of pioneers publicly declared their readiness to shoulder a musket and march to the defense of their country. All seemed

to be imbued with that same spirit of patriotic devotion and sacrifice which nerved the revolutionary fathers to win that glorious boon of liberty we now enjoy. Party prejudice was set aside and all labored together, hand in hand in that noble work of preserving the national honor.

By this time three companies of volunteers had been raised in Hancock County, which were afterwards mustered into the Twenty-first regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, as Companies A, F, and G. In the afternoon companies A and F were each presented by the ladies of Findlay with a handsome flag. The presentation took place in front of the court house in the presence of the large assemblage which had come together on that day to attest their unswerving loyalty. Mrs. James Neibling made the presentaion speech and the flags were respectively received by Captains Wilson and Walker on behalf of their companies.

The fair grounds, then located in East Findlay on the Mt. Blanchard road, was selected as a place of rendezvous for the volunteers and was dedicated as Camp "Neibling," in honor of the gallant Colonel James M. Neibling, who afterward commanded the Twenty-first regiment on many a bloody field. On the 25th of April Mrs. Mary Mungen on behalf of the ladies of Findlay presented a flag to company G. Before the following day a delegation of ladies from McComb put in an appearance at Camp Neibling and presented another flag to the same company, most of which command were from the northwest part of the county. Miss Addie M. Price presented the beautiful banner and Captain Lovell received it and responded in appropriate terms.

A mass meeting was held at the court house, April 27th, for the purpose of arranging for a more thorough military organization of the county. James M. Neibling was elected chairmna and D. B. Beardsley secretary. Speeches were made by Messrs. James M. Neibling, Aaron Blackford and Abel F. Parker, advocating the proposed measure; and committees were appointed in each township to carry the project into effect. Meetings were soon afterward held in nearly every township, military companies organized and the patriotic ardor of the people was unabated. Several companies of home guards were also formed, consisting of men over forty-five years of age; but these organizations subsequently disbanded, because the term "Home Guard" soon became one of reproach and was flippantly used to designate the stay-at-homes or a class who were afraid to go into the army.

A vast amount of credit is due the various societies organized at divers times during the rebellion towards providing for the families of those who were willing to give their service and, if need be their lives for the cause of freedom. And especially is this true of the ladies of these societies, who did a great amount of good in gathering and forwarding sanitary supplies to hospital camps. In fact, the patriotic women of the county did their full share toward crushing the mightiest rebellion in the history of the world, not only in helpful actions and deeds which relieved the soldiers in the field, but also by enduring the heart-aches and assuming the responsibility of both

parents' duties in the care of the children while the fathers were absent at the front —many of them, alas, nevermore to return. When finally the news of the capture of Richmond announced the approaching close of the struggle, it created the most intense and joyous excitement. The citizens turned out en masse; bells were rung and bonfires lighted in every town and village and an undercurrent of deep thankfulness pervaded the entire community. All hailed the good news as a harbinger of peace and happiness. With the fall of the rebel capital the war was virtually at an end; and although Lee made desperate efforts to save his army its fate was sealed, and the 8th of April, 1865, he surrendered to Grant at Appomattox court house; nine days afterward Johnston surrendered to Sherman.

The news of these glorious successes of the Union arms was received throughout the north with unbounded enthusiasm and heartfelt prayers were offered to the God of battles who in His infinite mercy had vouchsafed such a brilliant ending to the long turmoil of military strife. After four years of bloody war—after the sacrifice of hundreds of thousands of gallant men and millions of treasure, the great rebellion was at an end, the government preserved, and freedom perpetuated. A grand celebration was held at Findlay, April 14, 1865, to rejoice over the dawn of a glorious peace. The day was bright and cheerful, and nature seemed to smile on the exalted happiness of the people. The exercises commenced at six o'clock in the morning with the ringing of bells, and the firing of a salute of thirty-six guns. As the day wore on, crowds of people came pouring into Findlay. At ten o'clock services were held in several of the churches and shortly after noon a large audience gathered at the court house where appropriate addresses were delivered by Revs. Rose and Wykes. In the evening there was a fine display of fireworks and every business house, as well as many of the private dwellings were brilliantly illuminated.

"This joy, however, was short lived and suddenly changed to deep mourning. About ten o'clock the news of President Lincoln's assassination reached Findlay, and fell like a pall on the hearts of her citizens. Everyone was horror-struck at the awful deed, and never was there so much feeling manifested by the true and loyal hearts of Hancock County. In a short time all of the business houses were closed and draped in mourning and the flags dressed in crepe and raised, at half-mast. In the afternoon a public meeting was held at the court house to express the sentiment of the people on the assassination of the president, and deep gloom filled every honest heart.

"Soon after the war ended, the Union armies were discharged and the soldiers still remaining returned to their homes, and once more joy reigned supreme around hundreds of firesides in Hancock County. To the survivors and their children has been vouchsafed the blessings to witness the grand results of all their sacrifices, in a reunited country pursuing a common destiny, while the names and fame of those who fell, either on the battlefield or in the line of duty, has been commemorated through the pages of history and on the beautiful monuments of marble and bronze prominent in city, town and village all over this fair land

of ours. They all went out with one common aim in view—to lay down their life, if necessary, to aid in the cause of freedom. They went cheerfully, wherever duty called them. They never shirked duty and never flinched under fire. They never retreated unless ordered so to do. They endured all the hardships of marching, fighting, and of prisons and more than five hundred of them laid down their lives without a murmur, that the noble cause, for which they fought, might be sustained for the benefit of future generations. They left father, mother, brother, sister, wife, children, all that was near and dear to them in this life, well knowing that for the last time they might look at their families' loving faces, and into their aching hearts; and for four long and weary years, both those at home and those engaged in the fight for freedom endured the hardships of one of the most bloody and cruel wars on record."

SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR.

Hancock County was represented in the Spanish-American War by some 162 soldiers, of whom 109 were members of Company A, 2d Ohio Volunteer Infantry, the rest being distributed mainly among other companies of the same regiment, with a few in various companies of other regiments.

COMPANY A, SECOND OHIO VOLUNTEER INFANTRY.

Company A was organized at Findlay as an independent military company in 1872, by Captain James Wilson, a veteran of the Mexican and Civil Wars; mustered into the National Guard, December 10, 1874; assigned to the Eleventh Regiment as Company B, July 6, 1876; local designation, The Findlay Guards; letter changed to "A" upon the mustering out of the Columbus Grove Cadets in 1879; designation changed to Company A, Second Infantry in 1883; mustered out April 14, 1899; reorganized August 17, 1899, and designated as Company A, unattached Infantry; assigned to the reorganized Second Regiment as Company A, November 13, 1899. Active service: Cincinnati riots, 1884; Wheeling Creek, 1894. War with Spain: Organized for the Volunteer service at Findlay, April 25, 1898; mustered in at Columbus as Company A, Second Ohio Volunteer Infantry, May 10, 1898; mustered out at Macon, Ga., February 10, 1899. Officers (commissioned): Tillman L. Lafferty, Captain; Ralph E. Barnd, First Lieutenant; Frank M. Biggs, Second Lieutenant.

Company K, Second O. V. I., had nine Hancock County "boys;" Company H, same regiment, six; Company B, two, and Company C, one. Company D. Sixth O. V. I., had fifteen members from this county, including the captain, Frank P. Culp. The following companies also contained one or more members each from Hancock County; Company F, Eighth O. V. I.; Company — Ninth O. V. I.; Company B, Twenty-first O. V. I.; Company —, Twenty-eighth I. V. L. A.; Troop C, First O. Cavalry; Company D, First Artillery; Company D, Second U. S.; Company E, Sixth U. S. Artillery; Company A, Eleventh U. S.; Company A, Seventeenth U. S.; Company B, Twenty-eighth U. S.; Twenty-eighth Bat. Art. Ind.; Company M, Thirty-fifth U. S.; Company H, 157th Ind.

CHAPTER IX.

THE BENCH AND BAR.

Early History—Famous Judges and Lawyers—Hancock County Bar Association—First Jail and Court-House.

It would not be commensurate with a historical sketch of the Bench and Bar of Hancock County to name all the judges who have presided on its bench, or to describe the numerous lawyers who have practiced before its courts; yet it is thought best to refer to the organization of its several courts and to name some of the early judges who held them and the members of the bar who practiced before them, as well as the judges and lawyers who located here.

The first judicial system to be organized in that part of the United States which is now known as the State of Ohio, was that put in operation by the "Ordinance of 1787," by which the vast "territory northwest of the River Ohio" was set apart as a separate government, and a local judicial system given to it under said ordinance. The court was to consist of three judges, any two of whom could form and constitute a court. This court was to have common law jurisdiction and the judges must reside in the district and have therein a free hold estate of not less than five hundred acres of land during the time they held their office, and their commission was to continue in force during good behavior. These judges, with the governor of said territory were to select from the civil and criminal laws of the original states such laws as they thought suitable for the territory and they were authorized to promulgate and enforce the law, until amended or repealed by a general assembly which was to be later organized according to the terms of said Ordinance under which they were appointed.

In accordance with such provision of the Ordinance, Congress on the sixteenth day of October, 1787, elected as judges for the Northwest Territory, Samuel Wolden Parsons, John Armstrong and James Mitchell Varnam. Mr. Armstrong declined the appointment and on the nineteenth day of February, 1788, John Cleves Symmes was chosen in his place. The salary of the judges was fixed at eight hundred dollars per year. This organization of the court continued, with various changes which were made in the appointment of the judges, until the organization of the State of Ohio, in the year 1802.

Under the first constitution of Ohio, the number of supreme judges was three, with power vested in the General Assembly to authorize the selection of one additional judge.

Their term of office was fixed at seven years and their salaries were not to exceed one thousand dollars per annum, each. These judges, under the constitution, were to be chosen by the General Assembly, and on the second day of April, 1803, they elected Samuel Huntington, Return Jonathan Meigs, Jr., and William Spriggs, who composed the first Supreme Court of Ohio. Under this new constitution the first court was organized which concerned Hancock County directly. This was known as the Court of Common Pleas. The constitution of 1802 provided that the several Courts of Common Pleas should consist of a president judge and associate judges; that the State should be divided by law into three circuits and that there should be appointed a president of the Courts, who during his continuance in office should reside therein; that there should be appointed in each county not more than three nor less than two associate judges, who during their continuance in office should reside in the county, and the president in the circuit and the associate judges in the county should constitute the Court of Common Pleas, which court was to have common law and chancery jurisdiction. The several judges under this provision of the constitution were elected by the General Assembly.

The composition of this court was very often criticised and sometimes spoken of as "a court of one hundred judges,"—that is, one judge and two ciphers. In jury cases, undoubtedly the associate judges, who were not men skilled in the law, were practically ciphers, but in the trial of causes to the court they brought to the aid of the presiding judge good common sense and business knowledge, which was often an invaluable assistance and aided in making the finding of the court much more satisfactory than the verdict of a jury.

The president judge of the Common Pleas Court travelled from county to county in his circuit holding court. It was the custom of leading lawyers in those days to travel over the circuits of the several counties with the judges. Before the days of railroads, their ordinary mode of travel was on horseback, and usually each one owned his own horse. The court, bar, and friends journeyed together and generally put up at the same tavern. These leading and traveling lawyers had many partners, usually one in each county seat, who looked after the local business during the interim and was assisted in the trial of cases by the other, who by his constant attendance in court, became especially proficient in the trial of cases.

On horseback, therefore, with books, briefs and clothing stored in saddle-bags, which were thrown over the backs of the horses, the lawyers in merry parties traveled from court to court over corduroy or mud roads. The legs of the riders were encased from the ankles to far above the knee in leggings of stout cloth, the material of which was soon unrecognizable, being encrusted with an inch or more of mud. The way was cheered by story and jest and the woods resounded with laughter and song. One favorite amusement of these lawyers was to bet on the politics of any rider they might see ahead of them in the woods. They would then overtake him and engage in conversation with him, thus deciding the wager. As the party neared a town, one of them was sent ahead to engage rooms and to order a good meal prepared. The coming of a court to town was an event in those days. In the evening judges and lawyers gathered

around the huge fireplace of the tavern and told stories until a late hour.

When Hancock became a separate and distinct county, three of her citizens were honored with the appointment of Associate Judges, namely: Abraham Huff, Robert McKinnis and Ebenezer Wilson. We find the record of their first meeting, or the first court held in the county: "At a special court begun and held in the town of Findlay on the 14th of March, in the year of our Lord, one thousand, eight hundred and twenty-eight, present, Honorables Abraham Huff, Robert McKinnis and Ebenezer Wilson, Judges of and for the county of Hancock, and State of Ohio, and proceeded to appoint a clerk, pro tem., and after consideration, appointed Wilson Vance, and gave him the following certificate of his appointment in the following words, to-wit: 'Know all men by these presents, that we, Abraham Huff, Robert McKinnis and Ebenezer Wilson, Associate Judges, in and for the county of Hancock, have this day met at the schoolhouse in the town of Findlay, in said county, and after consultation and deliberation, have proceeded to appoint by living voice, Wilson Vance, Esq., of said county, clerk protem., at Findlay, this 14th day of March, 1828.'

ABRAHAM HUFF,
ROBERT MCKINNIS,
EBENEZER WILSON,
Associate Judges.

"The vote stood, ayes two, nays one. Mr. Vance was sworn into office by Judge McKinnis."

The office of clerk, was held by Mr. Vance as clerk pro tem., under the provisions of Sec. 7, Art. 3, of the Constitution of 1802, which recited: "That each Court shall appoint its own Clerk, for the term of seven years, but no person shall be appointed Clerk except pro-tempore, who shall not produce to the Court appointing him a certificate from a majority of the Judges of the Supreme Court, that they judge him to be well qualified to execute the duties of the office of Clerk to any Court of the same dignity, with that for which he offers himself."

The first judicial officers of the county deserve more than a passing notice, from their fidelity to business, their fairness in the discharge of their duties, and their unsullied character as men.

Judge Robert McKinnis was born in Butler County, Pennsylvania, and was of Scotch-Irish descent. He removed thence to Ross County, Ohio, and from thence, in 1822, he came to Hancock County, where he at once became one of the leading men. He married before his emigration to Ohio, and was surrounded by a grown up family when he came to this county. Not only was the Judge himself a noted man, but his sons, of whom there were four, Charles, Philip, James and John, were men who were trusted by the early settlers with positions of responsibility, which positions were always filled with intelligence and honesty. Charles was one of the first commissioners of the county, a position which at that time, was one of peculiar importance. The affairs of a new county were to be put in shape, all the conflicting interests of rival settlements to be harmonized, public buildings and public business were to be looked after. To safely and successfully manage, and control all these with economy, and to the best interests of a poor struggling population, required discrimination, decision and patience. Mr. McKinnis did not fail in these

qualifications. Judge McKinnis was the owner of a good farm in Liberty Township, on the south bank of the Blanchard, and lived to enjoy the fruits of his toil. In after life, and when quite advanced in years, he made several trips to the far west, some of his children having removed there, going and returning alone in his wagon. He died at a ripe old age, loved and respected by all who had his acquaintance.

Judge Ebenezer Wilson came to the county in 1826, and settled in Liberty Township, on a farm on which his son Joseph afterwards resided, where he continued his residence until his death. Of the Judge, it can be said that as a man, he enjoyed the respect and confidence of his neighbors to an unlimited extent. That he filled the office of Associate Judge, with intelligence and honesty, is evidenced by the fact that he held it for two terms—fourteen years—a greater length of time than did any other. The Judge was one of the pioneers of the Presbyterian church, and was noted for his exemplary life. He had a large family of children, who like himself, were social, good natured people. The Judge lived long enough to reclaim from the wilderness, and enjoy the blessings of one of the handsomest farms in the county and to see those who had come into the wilds of the county with him, peaceably enjoy the fruit of their labor, and he had the good fortune to retain to the last the esteem and friendship of his old pioneer associates.

It is not known at just what time Judge Abraham Huff came to the county, but it was at a very early period in its history. There seems to be but little known of his history, except that he was an honorable, straight-forward man, of good strong common sense, and was an upright, intelligent Judge. He was a man of poor bodily health, and left the county at an early day, going to the State of Missouri, in hopes of regaining his health, in which he partially succeeded.

The following is a complete record of the term of the first Court of Common Pleas held in the county, which was the June term in 1828:

At a Court of Common Pleas begun and held in the town of Findlay, in and for the county of Hancock, in the State of Ohio, on the third day of June, in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and twenty-eight. Present, the Associate Judges, Abraham Huff, Robert McKinnis and Ebenezer Wilson, the Presiding Judge not being present. Don Alonzo Hamlin, Sheriff, Wilson Vance, Clerk pro-tem., Anthony Casad was appointed by the Court to prosecute the Pleas in behalf of the State, for said county for the term of one year, and to be allowed forty dollars for his services."

"Elijah T. Davis was appointed Administrator on the effects of Thomas Wilson, late of Findlay Township, deceased. Joshua Hedges and Squire Carlin were accepted as his sureties, bonds given in the sum of Five Hundred dollars. Joshua Hedges, Jacob Poe and Charles McKinnis were appointed appraisers of said effects. On application ordered that the citizens of Welfare (now Delaware) Township have leave to elect one justice of the peace. One justice of the peace was appointed for Amanda Township. The Court appointed Wilson Vance recorder of Hancock County for the term

of seven years, and the Court adjourned without day.

ABRAHAM HUFF."

The first Grand Jury was composed of the following named persons: Josepy DeWitt, John P. Hamilton, Jacob Poe, Asa Lake, Charles McKinnis, Reuben Hales, Mordica Hammond, William Wade, John Boyd, Henry George, William Moreland, James McKinnis, William Taylor, Edwin S. Jones and John C. Wickham. The foreman was William Taylor.

The first Petit Jury summoned was as follows: John Beard, Joseph Johnson, John Huff, William Moreland, Jr., John Tullis, John J. Hendricks, Thomas Thompson, James Pettis, and there being no business for a Jury they were discharged without filling the panel. Rachel Wilson was appointed guardian of Rebecca and Jane Wilson, minor children of Thomas Wilson, deceased. Rebecca was eight and Jane one year old. When grown up Rebecca became the wife of John Reed, of Liberty Township, and Jane the wife of George L. Poe, of Allen Township.

On application, a license was granted to William Taylor to vend merchandise at his residence in Findlay, until the first day of April next, he to pay into the treasury two dollars and twenty-five cents for said license.

At the November term of the Court it "Appearing that there was no business before the Grand Jury, they were discharged." At the same term William Taylor was appointed Surveyor of the county, and the Clerk ordered to certify the same to the Governor. William Taylor, William Hackney and Mordica Hammond were appointed examiners of common schools. It was "ordered by the Court that there be allowed to the Clerk of the Court the sum of ten dollars each year, to be paid one half at each term of Court." Seven years Clerk of the Court for the magnificent sum of seventy dollars.

A special session of the court was held on the 19th day of March, 1829, for the purpose of granting letters of administration on the estate of John Patterson. William Taylor was appointed. Mr. Patterson was a brother of the wife of Mr. Taylor.

At the April term, 1829, Judges Huff, Wilson and McKinnis were present, also Sheriff John C. Wickham, Clerk Wilson Vance and Prosecuting Attorney Anthony Casad. The Grand Jury, the second one called and empaneled in the county was as follows: Robert Long, Amos Beard, Thomas Cole, John Shoemaker, Reuben W. Hamblin, Samuel Sargeant, William J. Greer, Robert Elder, John Hunter, Isaac Johnston, Nathan Frakes, Reuben Hales, Jacob Foster, William Moreland, Jr., Nathan Williams. The foreman was William J. Greer. Due notice having been given, William Taylor was licensed to keep a tavern at his house in Findlay, by paying five dollars. The Grand Jury, at this session, found a bill of indictment —the first ever returned in the county.

The first case on the civil docket was that of Robert Elder and wife against Asa Lake and wife for slander. Damages claimed, five hundred dollars. The action was brought at the November term, 1828, Abel Rawson, plaintiff's Attorney. A judgment was rendered for the defendants, and the plaintiffs ordered to pay the costs, taxed at two dollars and twenty-two cents. Such a cost bill as that would not go very far towards paying the costs of a slander suit in these days, neither would it make the officers of the court either rich or happy.

The case of Henry McWhorter against Samuel Sargeant and Abraham Huff was tried at

the April term, 1830, before Ebenezer Lane, President Judge, and Judges Wilson and McKinnis, associates. The action was upon note of hand, and amount claimed four hundred dollars, and one hundred dollars damages. "Now comes the plaintiff by Mr. Godman, his attorney, and the defendant being three times solemnly called came not, but made default. It is therefore considered that the plaintiff recover of said defendants the sum of $237.83, his debt aforesaid, together with his damages assessed by the court at one cent, and his costs of suit to be taxed at $3.30.

The case of the State of Ohio against Thomas Slight was tried before a jury composed of Joshua Hedges, Vanrensalear Hancock, John Elder, Seldon Blodgett, Sampson Dildine, James McKinnis, William DeWitt, Josiah Elder, Thomas F. Johnson, Asa M. Lake, Asa Lake and Mathew Reighly. Verdict, guilty. Second trial allowed, case finally dismissed.

Perhaps no cases tried in the county excited more interest at the time than those in which John P. Hamilton and Charles and Philip McKinnis figured. Charles McKinnis and John P. Hamilton were both county commissioners, and a petition had been presented to the Board, praying for the division of Findlay Township which then included all the western part of the county. To this proposition McKinnis, and perhaps his immediate constituency, were opposed, as it struck them off from Findlay. At the session in which the matter was to be determined, McKinnis after coming to town was attacked with the ague, and consequently was not able to meet with the Board. In his absence Hamilton and the other commissioner passed the act dividing the township. This was done no doubt without any intention of showing discourtesy to McKinnis, but it seems that McKinnis did not so regard it, for when the matter came to his ears, he was greatly enraged, as he believed they had purposely taken advantage of his absence to pass the obnoxious order. As soon as he was able to be on the street, meeting Hamilton, whom he considered as the prime mover in the matter, he attacked him and gave him a severe beating. Philip McKinnis happening to come to town and hearing that his brother Charles and Hamilton had been in a fight, and knowing that Charles was sick, took it for granted that his brother had been worsted in the fight. In his impetuous manner, he started out to find the man whom he supposed had taken an undue advantage and meeting Hamilton, without further ceremony pitched into him and repeated the dose which Charles had administered. Thus by mistake Hamilton got two beatings, for had Philip known that Charles had come out first best in the fight, or even that he had been the aggressor, and got whipped in a fair fight, he would not have interfered. The matter came before the courts and bills of indictments were found by the Grand Jury. The record says that to the indictment "the defendants say they are guilty, and threw themselves on the mercy of the court." The sentence pronounced by the court against Charles McKinnis was "that said McKinnis pay a fine of one dollar, and the costs of suit, taxed $2.24, and that he stand charged until the sentence of the court is complied with and be in mercy." The case against Philip was disposed of in the same way.

John P. Hamilton, in September, 1829, by T. C. Powell, his attorney, brought suit against Charles McKinnis for damages sustained by him in the assault and battery, claiming five hundred dollars damage. The case was tried

to a jury composed as follows: Joshua Elder, Don Alonzo Hamblin, Robert L. Strother, Joseph Egbert, Joshua Powell, Nathan Williams, William Greer, John J. Hendrichs, Mordica Hammond, Peter George, Thomas Thompson and William Morehead. Verdict, guilty. Damages assessed at seventy-five dollars. Suit was also brought against Phillip McKinnis, and a judgment of thirty-five dollars was recovered.

Anthony Casad, of Bellefontaine, Ohio, was appointed prosecuting attorney of the county at the magnificent sum of forty dollars a year. Among the names of attorneys practicing in the courts in that day, and for many years subsequently, we find those of Casad, Godman, Powell, Goit, Hall, Bates, Morrison, O'Neal, Coffinberry, Patterson, May and Rawson. In 1835, Robert L. Strother and John W. Baldwin were appointed Associate Judges, in place of Huff and McKinnis, Judge Wilson being reappointed. Judge Baldwin held the office but a short time, and upon his resignation, Major Bright was appointed.

In 1842, John Ewing, Mordica Hammond and William Roller were appointed, and they were succeeded by Michael Price, John Cooper and Gamaliel C. Brandel, and with them the race of associate judges became extinct, as the Constitution of 1851 abolished the office. The people of the county were very fortunate in the appointment of judges, as all were, at least, of the best citizens of the county.

Edson Goit, the first resident lawyer of Findlay, was born in Oswego County, New York, October 18, 1808. When he was quite small his father died, but, through improving every opportunity during his boyhood years he managed to obtain a fair education and taught school ere reaching his majority. In 1827 he left his early home and traveled across Ohio until arriving at the village of Fremont. Here he halted and subsequently taught school in Fremont and Tiffin. During this period Mr. Goit read law under Rudolphus Dickinson, of Fremont, and Abel Rawson, of Tiffin, and July 12, 1832, was admitted to practice. Learning that Findlay, the then new county seat of Hancock County, had no lawyer he at once concluded to come here and cast in his fortunes with the then hamlet. Traveling on foot from Tiffin, he reached Findlay on the third day of his journey and went to reside in the home of Dr. Rawson, a practicing physician of the village. This was in August, 1832, and in September he was appointed prosecuting attorney, which position he held until June, 1836. The office of prosecuting attorney, however, paid a very small salary during this period of the county's history, and for several months after settling in Findlay Mr. Goit patiently waited for clients that never came. Discouraged at the poor outlook, he at last made up his mind to leave the town, but ere he had carried out his intention the tide turned and he was engaged to teach a school, being thus guaranteed sufficient to pay his board. Clients soon began to consult him, hope took the place of despondency and he gave up the idea of leaving Findlay. While boarding at the tavern of William Taylor in 1835, he married Miss Jane Patterson, a sister of Mrs. Taylor, with whom she was living. In May, 1836, Mr. Goit was appointed auditor, vice John C. Schnnon, deceased, and served till March, 1837. In April, 1837, he was again appointed prosecuting attorney, but

resigned the office in October, 1838. The same month he was elected treasurer and filled that office two successive terms. Besides attending to the duties of his profession he now launched out boldly into other pursuits. He accumulated a large amount of land and engaged extensively in mercantile business in Hancock, Allen and Putnam Counties. He, however, got too many irons in the fire; his business was too complex for judicious management, and his large land interests finally became an incumbrance and proved his financial downfall. From January, 1858, to January, 1862, he again filled the office of prosecuting attorney and this finished his official career. Mr. Goit possessed unbounded energy and though a fair lawyer, did not devote sufficient attention to his profession to keep up with the times. He was a man of fine personal appearance and dignified carriage, and was regarded as a very strong jury lawyer. Though he lost the fruits of a lifetime of persevering industry he did not, however, "fail" as that term is commonly understood, but paid his creditors to the last penny, no man losing a cent by him, and his every promise being faithfully redeemed. Such was his sterling honesty that his principal solace at the hour of his death was the fact that he owed no man a dollar. His first wife died in the spring of 1863, leaving a family of three sons and one daughter. One of the sons was subsequently killed in the War of the Rebellion. Mr. Goit was afterwards married to Mrs. Sarah A. McConnell, of Van Buren, and in the fall of 1867 removed to Bowling Green, where he died May 29, 1880. Two daughters were born of the second marriage, both of whom are dead. No man has ever lived in Findlay who is more kindly remembered than Edson Goit. He was charitable to a fault and every worthy public enterprise found in him a warm friend and generous support. Mr. Goit built while living in Findlay what was then the largest block in Findlay. The Karg Bros. meat-market block is a portion of the building he erected, although the entire structure was remodeled during the boom.

Arnold F. Merriam was the second lawyer to locate in Findlay. He was born in Brandon, Vt., December 17, 1811, and was there educated and began the study of law. In early manhood he removed to Zanesville, Ohio, where he completed his law studies and was admitted to practice. He soon afterward started for Vinton County, where he intended to locate. During his journey he met Wilson Vance, who induced him to change his mind and come to Findlay. He arrived here in the spring of 1835 and entered into partnership with Edson Goit. In June, 1836, he was appointed prosecuting attorney, which office he filled till April, 1837, when he resigned. On the 27th of May, 1837, he married Miss Sarah A. Baldwin, who bore him one son and two daughters. In January, 1838, Mr. Merriam started the Hancock Republican, the first Whig paper published in the county, which he published about a year. He then removed to Mansfield, Ohio, sold the press and subsequently went to Kentucky where he died in July, 1844. His widow returned with her family to Findlay, and afterward married Judge Robert Strother. The lady lived here for some few

years, the venerable Mrs. S. A. Strother, whom everybody loved and revered.

John H. Morrison, the third lawyer who came to Findlay, was one of the best known members of the pioneer bar. P. B. Morrison and the Misses Morrison of this city, one of whom is now dead, were son and daughters of the once celebrated lawyer. He was born in Uniontown, Penn., in 1802, but removed when quite young to Perry County, Ohio, where at the age of fifteen he lost his right arm by accident. Young Morrison received a good common school education, read law in the office of Philemon Beecher, of Lancaster, Ohio, began practice in Bucyrus, and afterwards filled the office of prosecuting attorney and treasurer of Crawford County. In the fall of 1836 he located in Findlay and soon became well known throughout northwestern Ohio. Mr. Morrison was married in Perry County, Ohio, to a Miss Henthorn, who died at Bucyrus without issue. He afterwards married in Perry County, Ohio, a Miss Henthorn, who died at Bucyrus, without issue. Subsequent to this second bereavement, he married Miss Nancy Williams, who reared a family of five children, two of whom still reside in Findlay. He died April 19, 1864.

Jacob Barnd was a bright, promising, young lawyer, who died in 1845. He was a native of Perry County, Ohio, and a son of Christian Barnd, a pioneer of 1831, in which year he removed with his parents to this county. In 1832 the family moved from the farm into Findlay where Jacob afterward studied law under Edson Goit. He was admitted to the bar in 1837 and in October, 1838, was appointed prosecuting attorney, but served only until the end of the term of court, which was October 9, 1838. He filled the recorder's office two terms, from October, 1838, to October, 1844, and it is probable that he did not practice much during that period. He left two sons at his death.

Jude Hall came to Findlay about 1836, where he followed the carpenter's trade, and sometimes preached the gospel. He was a queer specimen of the genus homo and quite an eccentric character. He read law with Edson Goit and soon after his admission to the bar in 1838 he was elected prosecuting attorney, being re-elected in 1840. In 1843 he removed to Defiance and thence to Upper Sandusky, where further trace of him was lost.

Hon. Charles W. O'Neal comes next in the order of time. He was born in Middletown, Frederick County, Maryland, January 18, 1811, and in 1833 removed to Zanesville, Ohio, where the following year he was married to Miss Amy J. Baldwin. In July, 1835, he came to Findlay and began the study of law in the office of Goit and Merriam and in August, 1838, was admitted to practice. Mr. O'Neal was a practical surveyor and did a great deal of surveying in this county. He was also one of the pioneer school teachers of Findlay. In 1836 he was elected auditor serving one term, and he also represented this district in the State Senate from 1844 to 1846. He practiced his profession in Hancock County nearly forty years, retiring from active practice a few years prior to his death, and removing to Indiana, whence he returned and died in Findlay, December 20, 1879. Mr. O'Neal, though a safe counsellor, was not an advocate and rarely ap-

peared in that capacity in any important case. He was very methodical and dignified in his practice, terse and forcible in argument and always courteous to the opposing counsel. He was close and economical in his business habits and very successful in the accumulation of wealth, leaving to his descendants a handsome fortune.

Abel F. Parker was born in Cavendish, Windsor County, Vermont, May 11, 1800, and died in Findlay, May 31, 1881, in his eighty-second year. In early manhood he settled in Genesee County, New York, where he removed with his family to Blanchard Township, this county, two years later locating in Findlay. He read law under Edson Goit and was admitted to the bar in 1842. The same year he was elected prosecuting attorney and served one term. In 1846 he was again elected prosecutor and re-elected in 1848, but resigned the office in 1849. Mr. Parker also filled the office of postmaster of Findlay. His first wife died in 1848, leaving a family of one son and two daughters. In 1852 Mr. Parker married Sarah A. Robinson, who bore him two sons and one daughter. His two daughters, Misses Julia and Dora, resided in this city many years, and his son, Judge Robert Parker, resided in Bowling Green. Though Mr. Parker lived to the ripe old age of more than four score years, he nevertheless continued in practice up to within a short period of his decease. He loved his profession and was highly respected by his associates of the bar.

Ezra Brown was born in Lown, Canada, August 4, 1814, and when about three years old removed with his parents to what is now the town of Albion, Orleans County, New York. There he resided till October, 1839, when he came to Findlay. Entering the law office of John H. Morrison, he was admitted to the bar in July, 1842. He formed a partnership with his preceptor and continued in practice until February, 1847, then removed to a farm in Wood County, near Fostoria. In the spring of 1852 Mr. Brown returned to Findlay, and resumed the practice of his profession. He remained in practice till the fall of 1880 and then retired from the active duties thereof. In the spring of 1885 Mr. Brown was elected justice of the peace, which office he held until his death, some time later. He was mayor of Findlay and a member of the council. On the 11th of November, 1845, he married Miss Jane E. Biglow, who died February 4, 1873, leaving a family of two daughters, Miss Metta, who was a teacher in the schools in Portland, Oregon, and Mrs. S. P. DeWolf, wife of the ex-county auditor and manager of the Findlay Morning Republican. A son died at Memphis, Tenn., in 1863, while serving the Union Army.

Elijah Williams was also a student in the office of Mr. Morrison and was admitted with Ezra Brown in July, 1842. He practiced in Findlay about eight years, when he removed to Portland, Oregon, where he died a few years ago. He is remembered as a sharp, shrewd, but diffident lawyer.

Hon. Machias C. Whiteley was born May 24, 1822, and died several years previous to 1901. He came of Scotch-Irish parentage and was born at East New Market, Dorchester County, Md. His paternal grandfather was a patriot of the Revolution and his father served in the War of 1812 against the British. In

1832 his parents, Willis and Elizabeth Whiteley, removed their family to Baltimore, Fairfield County, where the subject of this sketch worked on a farm and attended the common schools of the neighborhood. He subsequently learned the harness trade, which he followed until coming to Findlay in 1840. For two years he worked in the clerk's office, devoting his spare time to reading law with Goit & O'Neal and then returned to Fairfield County, where he continued his law studies with Medill & Whitman, of Lancaster. On the 4th of July, 1843, he was admitted to the bar at Tiffin and immediately opened a law office in Findlay where he gradually attained a lucrative practice. In 1847 Mr. Whiteley married Miss Sarah A. Henderson, a native of Wayne County, Ohio, and daughter of William L. Henderson, a leading surveyor of Hancock County, and one of its earliest settlers. Nine children were born to this union. In 1848 Mr. Whiteley was elected to the legislature and re-elected in 1849. While in the legislature he took part in the election of Salmon P. Chase to the United States Senate and secured the charter of the Pittsburg, Ft. Wayne and Chicago Railroad. In 1856 he was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention which nominated Buchanan and Breckenridge for president and vice-president of the United States. The same fall he was elected judge of the court of Common Pleas, for the Third Subdivision of the Ninth Judicial District, and was re-elected in 1861, serving on the bench ten years. In 1864 Judge Whiteley was nominated on the Democratic ticket for supreme judge, but with the balance of the ticket was defeated, the state going largely Republican that year. Upon retiring from the bench in 1867 Judge Whiteley resumed practice in Findlay and continued in active practice almost up to the time of his death. He was one of the most prominent attorneys of northwestern Ohio and a Democrat of Democrats, but absolutely refused to vote when the registration law went into effect.

William M. Patterson was admitted to the bar at Tiffin July 4, 1843, on the same day as Mr. Whiteley. He was born in Harrison County, Ohio, March 24, 1812, and in the spring of 1834 came to Findlay with his parents, Major John and Elizabeth Patterson. He read law with Charles W. O'Neal and upon his admission began practice in Findlay. In 1844 he was elected prosecuting attorney and served one term. He was married in 1834 to Susan Amspoker and resided in Findlay till 1854, when, with his wife and four children, he removed to Kansas. He died in the spring of 1858 from the effects of an accident caused by a boiler explosion in the fall of 1855 in a saw-mill which he was then operating.

Hon. James M. Coffinberry became a member of the Findlay bar in the fall of 1845. He was born in Mansfield, Ohio, May 16, 1818, whence in 1836 his father, Andrew Coffinberry, removed to Perrysburg, Wood County. Here James M. read law in his father's office and in 1840 was admitted to the bar. His father, widely known as Count Coffinberry, was one of the leading attorneys of Northwestern Ohio and practiced in this portion of the state throughout the earlier years of its history. Soon after admission to the bar James M. opened a law office in Maumee City and subsequently served as prosecuting attorney of Lucas County. Late in the fall of 1845 he settled in Findlay where he purchased an interest and took editorial charge of the Findlay Herald, the local organ of the Whig party. In the spring of 1846 he became sole owner of the

Herald, which he published about three years, and then sold out to Dr. David Patton. From the date of his coming to Findlay Judge Coffinberry took and retained a leading position at the Hancock County Bar and in 1852 was a prime mover in the establishment of the Findlay Bank, the first financial institution established in the county. Feeling the need of a large field for the full exercise of his maturer powers, he removed in 1855 to Cleveland, Ohio, where he held a high rank among the eminent lawyers of that city. In 1861 he was elected on the Union ticket Judge of the Common Pleas Court and served five years on the bench. Upon the expiration of his judicial term he resumed his professional duties and continued in the enjoyment of a large and lucrative practice till 1875 when he retired. He was one of the greatest lawyers Findlay ever had.

Charles S. Coffinberry, a younger brother of the Judge, practiced law in Findlay about three years. He was a native of Mansfield, Ohio, born February 1, 1824. He read law with his father at Perrysburg and came to Findlay in the spring of 1846, where he formed a partnership with John M. Morrison. In 1849, in company with others from this portion of Ohio, he went to California and was afterward appointed by President Filmore to take the first census of that state. In the discharge of this laborious undertaking, he was ably assisted by his father, who had followed him to the new Eldorado. He finally returned to Ohio and for a few months was associated with his brother in the practice of the law in Cleveland, but failing health compelled him to again relinquish his professional labors and he went to Oregon and New Mexico where he spent the later years of his life, dying of consumption about thirty miles south of Pueblo, December 17, 1873.

Aaron H. Biglow was a native of Vermont and a graduate of Middlebury College. He there read law and was admitted to practice. In July, 1841, he located in Findlay and for a few years was engaged in mercantile pursuits. He then began the practice of law, which he followed until 1856 when he gave up the profession and subsequently removed to Indiana, where he died. Mr. Biglow possessed a good education and was a fair speaker, but never acquired much practice.

John E. Rosette first located in Mt .Blanchard where he married. In 1848 he removed to Findlay and in April, 1849, he was appointed prosecuting attorney, vice Abel F. Parker, resigned. He was twice elected to the same position, serving until January, 1854. He was modest, quiet, and of studious habits, possessing good legal judgment but diffident and lacking self-reliance. Soon after the expiration of his last term as prosecutor he removed to Springfield, Ill., where he rapidly secured recognition as a sound, reliable lawyer. He was appointed by President Johnson United States district attorney for the southern district of Illinois. For some years before his death he enjoyed a wide reputation as a criminal lawyer and commanded the confidence of a bar embracing many distinguished men.

Henry Brown was one of the oldest and best known members of the bar. He was born in Albion, Orleans County, N. Y., November 25, 1826, and received a good literary and classical education at the Albion Academy. In May, 1844, he came to Ohio and engaged in school teaching near Fostoria, which vocation he followed three years. During this period he commenced the study of law under Hon. Warren P. Noble, of Tiffin, Ohio, and in the fall of 1848 he was admitted to practice. In January,

1842, he located in Findlay as a member of the law firm of Goit, Biglow & Brown. In January, 1851, Mr. Brown became one of the editors and proprietors of the Hancock Courier, which he continued to publish until January, 1854. When he sold his interest to his partner Aaron Blackford, who had also been his law partner for the last two years. In January, 1855, he assumed entire editorial control of the Courier and carried on that paper until December 20, 1856. He was elected auditor in October, 1854, and served till March, 1857. Mr. Brown was then compelled by ill health to retire from active business. After a period of needed recuperation he resumed the practice of his profession and in November, 1862, was appointed prosecuting attorney to serve out the unexpired term of James A. Bope, resigned; was elected as his own successor, and re-elected to the same position. In 1868 he was the Democratic senatorial candidate for election in this district, and made a splendid race, reducing the previous Republican majority 1,973 votes, and being defeated by only 227 votes. Mr. Brown was again elected prosecutor in 1875 and re-elected in 1877. In 1884 he was once more chosen to fill the same office and in 1887 was elected to the lower house of the legislature, succeeding himself in 1889. He died May 11, 1893, regretted by all who knew him.

William Gribben was one of the brightest, brainiest members of the Findlay bar and might have risen very high if he had devoted his talents to his profession. He was born in Allegheny County, Penn., March 11, 1825, and in the following autumn his parents removed to what is now Ashland County, Ohio, where Mr. Gribben grew to maturity and received a common school education. He read law with Johnson and Sloan of Ashland and was admitted to the bar in the fall of 1850. The same autumn he located in Findlay and formed a partnership with John H. Morrison and subsequently with Judge Whiteley. In 1853 he was elected prosecuting attorney and was re-elected in 1855. He served in the legislature from 1862 to 1864 and received the certificate of re-election but lost the seat on contest. This was during the most exciting period in the political history of the state, when Democrats were publicly branded as rebels and political passion ran high. Mr. Gribben followed his profession until his death, which occurred November 28, 1887.

Aaron Blackford was one of the oldest and most prominent members of the Hancock County bar, to which he had belonged nearly fifty years. He was born in Columbiana County, Ohio, February 8, 1827, and removed to Findlay with his parents, Price and Abigail Blackford, in October, 1834. He received his education in the public schools of Findlay and at Delaware College, Delaware, Ohio. He read law with Henry Brown, of Findlay, attended the Cincinnati Law School and was admitted to the bar in May, 1852. In January, 1851, he became associated with Henry Brown, of Findlay, in the publication of the Hancock Courier, which they jointly edited until January, 1854, when Mr. Blackford became sole editor. He conducted the paper about one year and then disposed of his interest to his former partner. During this period Mr. Blackford also practiced law, and with the passing years attained more than a state prominence in his profession. Mr. Blackford was the Nestor of the Findlay bar and accumulated great wealth. He had four sons, two of whom are now practicing attorneys in this city—Rollin dying a few years ago, the two still practicing

here being Frank P. and Charles A. Blackford. Mr. Blackford died Dec. 7, 1904.

Hon. William Mungen was born in Baltimore, Md., May 12, 1821, and died September 9, 1887. He removed with his family in 1830 to Carroll County, Ohio, where he received a common school education and subsequently studied Latin, German and the physical sciences. He came to Findlay in October, 1842. In February, 1845, he took possession of the Hancock Farmer, and changed its name to the Hancock Democrat and on the first of July, 1845, he became the editor and proprietor of the Hancock Courier, consolidating the two papers. Excepting one year during which the office was rented to William M. Case, and a short period to B. F. Rosenberg, Mr. Mungen published the Courier until 1851, when he sold the establishment to Henry Brown and Aaron Blackford, two leading members of the bar. In 1846 Mr. Mungen was elected auditor of Hancock County and re-elected in 1848. In 1846 Mr. Mungen was chosen to represent this district in the state senate and declined a renomination, which was then equal to election. In the meantime he had been reading law during his spare moments and in 1852 was admitted to the bar and began practice. When the Rebellion broke out in 1861 Mr. Mungen was foremost in recruiting the Fifty-seventh Ohio Volunteer Infantry and was commissioned colonel of that gallant regiment, which he commanded until April, 1863, when he resigned the commission. Colonel Mungen served as a Democrat two terms in Congress from 1867 to 1871. He is the only congressman Hancock County had then had. Mrs. Jacob H. Boger and Miss Effie Mungen of this city are his daughters. Mr. Mungen was a true patriot, a noble citizen, a great lawyer and a brave soldier, serving in any capacity in which his country's cause was prime motive.

Andrew Coffinberry was conspicuous among the old-time lawyers of the Maumee Valley, and though not a resident of Findlay until within a few years prior to his death, he practiced at this bar before the county possessed a single attorney. He was born at Martinsburg, Berkeley County, Virginia, August 20, 1788. In the spring of 1836 he removed with his family to Perrysburg, Wood County, Ohio, where he resided until 1849-50. From Perrysburg he removed to Sidney, Shelby County, Ohio; there he left his family and went to California. Upon the death of his wife, which occurred during his absence, his son James M. brought the family to Findlay, where their father joined them on his return from California. Here he continued in practice until his death, May 11, 1856. "Count" Coffinberry was not only a lawyer of ability but possessed considerable literary talent. "The Forest Ranges," a descriptive poem, was one of his productions. His sobriquet of "Count" was first playfully given him by his professional associates from some real or supposed resemblance to the illustrious German jurist and publicist Count Puffendorf. The title was recognized as being so appropriate to the man that it stuck to him through life, and thousands of those who knew him long and well never knew that it was not his real name.

John F. Caples came to Findlay from Fostoria in the fall of 1854 and practiced law here till the spring of 1858, when he removed to Warsaw, Indiana. He subsequently went to Portland, Oregon, and entered into the practice of his profession. "John F. Caples," said Judge Coffinberry, "is one of the best lawyers of his adopted

state." During his life in Findlay he was recognized as a good speaker and a promising young lawyer.

Daniel B. Beardsley, one of the pioneers of Hancock County and a lawyer for many years in Findlay, was born in Licking County, Ohio, May 12, 1832, and was brought by his parents to Hancock County in 1834, where he resided until his death September 29, 1894. Mr. Beardsley was educated in the public schools of this county and taught school for a number of years. He read law with Walker & West, of Bellefontaine, and was there admitted to the bar in August, 1856. In March, 1857, he located in practice in Findlay and for thirty-seven years was a member of the local bar. In 1858 he was elected a justice of the peace of Findlay Township and was re-elected eight times, serving continuously from the spring of 1858 to the spring of 1885, a period of twenty-seven years. Mr. Beardsley was prominent in the organization of "The Hancock County Pioneer and Historical Association" and an active member during its existence. His connection with this society prompted him to write a history of Hancock County which he published in 1881. Mr. Beardsley was also secretary of the Hancock County Agricultural Society for many years and he was a good one—an untiring worker and a genial courteous gentleman with friends in every nook and corner of the county.

William C. Bunts located in Findlay in the spring of 1858, whither he removed from Youngstown, Ohio. He graduated in 1854 from Allegheny College at Meadville, Penn., read law with Ridgeley Powers, of Youngstown, and upon admission began practice with his preceptor. Mr. Bunts practiced law in Findlay till 1860 and then returned to Youngstown and resumed partnership with Mr. Powers. He afterwards served in the Civil War, on the staff of General Rosecrans. He located at Nashville, Tenn., subsequently returning to Youngstown and thence going to Cleveland, where he filled the position of assistant United States district attorney and city solicitor, dying January 16, 1874.

Col. James A. Bope was a native of Ohio, having been born in Winchester, Adams County, on the 30th of November, 1833. His parents removed to Lancaster in 1838 and there he received his preliminary educational discipline, after which he was matriculated in Wittenberg College, Springfield, Ohio, where he was graduated as a member of the class of 1855. There was no element of vacillation in his nature, and thus it was to be expected that he would early form definite plans as to his course in life. He began reading law in Lancaster, being a close and assiduous student and so rapidly advancing in his technical knowledge as to secure admission to the bar of the state in 1857. He served his novitiate as a practitioner in Lancaster, where he remained until 1859, when he came to Findlay. Here he subsequently maintained his home and by his life and services added to the dignity of the bar of the state.

In 1861 Colonel Bope had been elected prosecuting attorney of the county, but the responsibilities of this incumbency and the demands of his general practice did not deter him from promptly responding to the clarion call to arms when the dark shadow

of Civil war obscured the National horizon. In July, 1862, he enlisted as a member of Company D, Ninety-ninth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, of which he was made captain and in which he served until July 10, 1864, when he was appointed acting inspector general in the brigade commanded by Colonel P. T. Swaine. In the battle of Atlanta our subject was severely wounded and was sent home by General Schofield, presumably never to return to the front or even survive his injuries. He, however, recovered and rejoined his command in North Carolina. He was made lieutenant colonel and was placed in command of the Ninety-ninth and Fifteenth Consolidated Regiments of Ohio Volunteer Infantry, in which capacity he served until the close of the war, being mustered out in July, 1865. He was an active participant in all the engagements of his command from Perryville, Ky., to the end, including the battles of Lookout Mountain, Chickamauga and Missionary Ridge, and from Dalton to Atlanta. He had received several minor wounds prior to being incapacitated by his injuries at Atlanta.

After being mustered out Colonel Bope returned to Findlay and resumed his interrupted professional work in which he gained a marked precedence and a representative clientage. For more than a decade he was retained as counsel for the Findlay city council and thereafter served for four years as city solicitor. He devoted his attention principally to corporation law, having nothing in the line of criminal cases in connection with his professional work, though he proved a strong advocate, versatile and thorough and learned in the minutia of the law. He was attorney for a number of important corporations, including leading banking institutions, and attorney for the Cincinnati, Sandusky and Cleveland and the Big Four Railroad and also for the Bowling Green & Southern Traction Company. His political allegiance was given to the Republican party of whose cause he was ever a stalwart supporter and advocate. In 1861 Colonel Bope was united in marriage to Miss Martha J. Meeks, a daughter of Rev. J. A. Meeks, and their home was ever a center of gracious hospitality. Colonel Bope died October 25, 1908.

Absalom P. Byall. Few, if any, of the men living in Hancock County today, have been so closely connected with the progress and official affairs of the county as has the Hon. Absolam P. Byall. Mr. Byall was born in Stark County, Ohio, on the 19th day of June, 1821, and moved with his father's family to Findlay, arriving on the 6th of September, 1833, when a lad of twelve years of age, and has been a continuous citizen of this county to the present day. The family settled on a forty-acre tract of land on the east side of Main Street, extending from Sandusky Street to Lima Street, building a house on the site of the grounds at present occupied by the fine residence of George P. Jones. At that date the land was covered by the primeval forest. Mr. Byall with the help of the subject of our sketch, cleared up this land, making for himself and family a comfortable home. In 1840 the father died, and Absalom being the oldest of five children, took upon himself the dutiful task of the support of his mother and the four younger children.

In September, 1845, he was united in marriage to Miss Sarah A. Youngkin, and to this

union were born one son and three daughters, all of which are still living. Mrs. Byall died May 21, 1865, just at the close of the civil war. In 1867 Mr. Byall was again married to Miss Sallie Mavety, and to this marriage were born two children, a daughter, who at the age of two and a half years met with the sad fate of death from drowning by falling into a well, and a son George F. Byall, the well known and progressive agriculturist. His second wife died February 13, 1897, since which time Mr. Byall has remained single, living in his beautiful residence by the most handsome grove in the county, planted by his own hands. In his early life he cleared land, chopped cord wood and did farming, besides attending to different official services that fell to his lot.

In 1842, Elisha Brown of Amanda Township was elected sheriff of Hancock County, but the amount of business in the office not justifying Mr. Brown's removal to Findlay, he appointed A. P. Byall, then a young man of twenty-one, as his deputy, and the business of that office was ably and promptly attended to until the close of Mr. Brown's term. Owing to a split in the Democratic party in 1844, Elisha Brown failed of re-election, the opposite party taking the office; but in 1846, A. P. Byall was nominated and elected to the office of sheriff of Hancock County, which he held for about a year and a half when he resigned to accept an appointment as clerk of the court, as under the constitution of 1802 this was an appointive office by a president and three associate judges. Judge Good, of Shelby County, was president, and Hammond, Roller and Ewing were associates. The last three were residents of this county.

The new Constitution of 1851 terminated the appointment, and made it an elective office, thus terminating Mr. Byall's term. At that time the duties of clerk of the court were not arduous, and Mr. Byall employed his spare time in reading law, with C. W. O'Neal and M. C. Whiteley, and was admitted to practice by Judge Thurman of the Supreme Court of Ohio, his office having terminated by Constitutional limitation in 1852. In 1857 he located on a farm north of town and for a time gave his entire attention to practical farming, in which, as in all other things he engaged in, he was successful, as he put his own hands to the plow and did not look back.

In 1860 he took the census of the west half of the county with the exception of Orange and Van Buren Townships. In 1861 he removed to Findlay for the purpose of better educating his children, and bought the property on the east side of Main Street north of Front Street, built in an early day by Wilson Vance, and now owned by Mrs. Wilhelmina Traucht, and occupied by her for a residence and milliner store. In 1868 he sold this property to Gen. M. B. Walker, and bought a farm on the Lima Road about a mile from Main Street, and after some years built a fine residence and embellished the grounds with groves and shrubbery, until it is one of the handsomest homes in Hancock County.

In 1847 while sheriff, he took a jury of six men along the route of the "Branch Road" from here to Carey, to appraise the lands in anticipation of the building of the railroad from Findlay to Carey, the first railroad built in this county. In 1872 he was elected Justice of the Peace, but finding that it interfered with the work of managing his farms, he resigned after holding the office for a year and a half. In 1873 he was elected a member of the Constitutional Convention that convened in Colum-

bus, O., and held sessions until the breaking out of cholera in August of 1873, when it adjourned and reassembled in Cincinnati December 1st of the same year, and remained there until the 15th of May, 1874.

He was President of the Hancock Agricultural Society for fifteen years, and the society grew strong and prosperous under his management. In 1883 he was elected as a member of the House of the Ohio Legislature, and was reelected in 1885. Here it was that Colonel Byall—for by that name was he known to the members of that body—displayed great strength of character, and many important measures were intrusted to his care in their passage through the House, not only from his own county but from others as well. His well known integrity and steadfastness called forth the confidence in his honesty and influence to carry a bill to a favorable termination in that body.

Col. Byall has a most wonderful memory of events that have occurred in his life, and those of a public nature, and his recital of them is both instructive and entertaining. Hour upon hour can be pleasantly spent in conversation with him at his splendid and commodious home on Lima Avenue. The beautiful "Byall Park," located on the southwest border of the town, at the head of Hurd Avenue, and used as a camp meeting ground, was largely the gift of Mr. Byall and embellished by the society who hold annual meetings is considered an attractive spot, and well deserves to be named in honor of so noble and charitable a gentleman.

Hon. John M. Palmer was born in Clinton County, New York, July 5, 1814, learned the cabinet maker's trade in Portland, Vt., and worked at it in that state. In 1837 he came to Ohio and attended Granville Seminary. He studied law with Hon. Henry Strausberry, of Cincinnati, and was there admitted to practice in 1841. In 1843 he was married at Lancaster, Ohio, to Miss Ellen Weaver, and located in practice at Somerset, Perry County. In 1846 he removed to Defiance, where he followed his profession until 1852 when he was elected judge of the Court of Common Pleas. While still on the bench Judge Palmer removed to Putman County, in which county he had considerable land interests and a township of which was named in his honor. In June, 1858, he settled in Findlay, and resumed the practice of law in partnership with John Maston. From 1861 to 1863 he was a commissary in the army with the rank of captain, but resigning the office, remained in the south for some time. Returning to Findlay he again took up his practice and followed the profession up to the illness which resulted in his death November 29, 1876.

Elijah T. Dunn was born in Knox County, Ohio, June 20, 1840. His father was a farmer and tobacco grower. In 1844 he removed with his people to Wood County, Ohio, in what was then known as the "Black Swamp," where. with three terms of winter school, his early education was finished. At the age of thirteen he entered the office of the Herald of Freedom, at Wilmington and became an expert printer. He taught several terms of school in Clark and Hancock Counties, pursuing in the meantime the study of law. On the breaking out of the Rebellion he joined with the Union army, while yet a minor and did service for a short time as a member of the Twenty-first Ohio Volunteers. Becoming unable to perform duty as a soldier he held for a while a clerkship in the quarter-turning to Findlay he completed his law course master's department at Nashville, Tenn. Re-

and on the 2nd of August, 1862, was admitted to the bar. He was then twenty-two years of age. He then settled down in Findlay and has ever since been creditably identified with the legal profession here.

The following is a list of the attorneys, who are practicing their profession in this city:

Axline & Betts, O. A. Ballard, Charles V. Bish, J. C. Bitler, Blackford & Blackford, E. V. Bope, W. F. Brickman, N. W. Bright, Burket & Burket, R. K. Carlin, W. L. Carlin, W. W. Chapman, J. J. Cole, R. D. Cole, R. Clint Cole, S. J. Williams, J. N. Doty, E. T. Dunn, B. L. Dunn, M. G. Foster, Franklin Franks, John Franks, A. G. Fuller, T. F. Gillespie, Alfred Graber, J. M. Harrison, C. E. Jordon, A. E. Kerns, T. W. Lang, Thomas Meehan, G. F. Pendleton, G. H. Phelps, Poe & Poe, J. E. Priddy, G. W. Ross, M. C. Shafer, John Sheridan, John D. Snyder, Hiram Van Campen, B. W. Waltermire, R. J. Wetherald, Albert Zugschwert.

HANCOCK COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION.

In pursuance to a call which had been circulated among the attorneys of Findlay, upwards of thirty members of the legal fraternity met at 4 o'clock Saturday afternoon, March 11, 1899, in the Circuit Court room. On motion Mr. Aaron Blackford was chosen chairman and Silas E. Hurin secretary. Mr. E. T. Dunn offered a motion to the effect that it was the sense of those present that a bar association should be formed. After remarks by several of the attorneys, Mr. Dunn's motion was adopted.

Mr. George W. Ross then moved that the chair appoint a committee of five to formulate a constitution and by-laws. The motion being carried, Messrs. J. A. Bope, E. T. Dunn, George W. Ross, Jason Blackford and Harlan F. Burket were named as the committee. A constitution and by-laws having been adopted, meetings were held from time to time, and today the association is one that will compare well in the matter of qualifications, clear-mindedness and capability, with any that can be produced in this state.

MURDERS AND MURDER TRIALS.

In 1846 a horse was stolen in Hardin County, and the thief was pursued through this county, several persons here joining in the chase. Amongst them was John Parish, who resided in Williamstown, in this county. At Van Buren the thief was overtaken, and being hard pressed, left his horse and took to the fields about a mile beyond the village. Parish at once dismounted and pursued him. Overtaking him in the field, he closed with him, finally overpowering him. He then gave the signal for the others to approach, but while doing so, the thief pulled his revolver and shot Parish dead, making his escape. Afterward a man who gave his name as Benjamin F. Dulin, was arrested, charged with being the murderer. After an imprisonment of some months in the county jail, he had a preliminary hearing before the associate judges of the Common Pleas Court. A large number of witnesses were present from Lake and Geauga Counties, in the interest of the prisoner and he succeeded in proving an alibi and was discharged. It was, however, pretty generally believed that Dulin was the murderer. The prosecution was conducted by the late Abel F. Parker, who was prosecuting attorney, assisted by Aaron H. Bigelow. The prisoner was defended by Judge M. C. Whiteley and William M. Patterson. The

real murderer, if Dulin was not, was never apprehended.

William Foster, a resident of Jackson Township, was indicted at the November term of court in 1856, for murder in the second degree, for the killing of his son, Andrew. Foster, it seems, was of a weak mind, irritable and easily influenced by others. He had married a second time, the mother of Andrew being dead. The boy was about fifteen years old, and he and his step-mother could not agree, and all misconduct, or supposed misconduct of the boy, was reported to his father, who became excited, and without inquiry would punish the boy severely. The boy was apparently possessed of a morbid appetite; his hunger was never appeased. He would even get up in the night and seek food. On one occasion, some food which had been prepared the evening before, was found to have been taken during the night. Its loss was charged to Andrew, and his father in a rage made an assault on him. The boy was afterwards found terribly bruised and injured in loins and back. From these wounds he afterwards died, and his father was arrested, indicted and tried for the killing. Judge Whiteley, who defended the prisoner, said afterwards that it did not certainly appear on the trial just who did inflict the wounds, as some evidence tended to show that the step-mother had also taken a part in the assault. Foster was tried at the April term in 1856. The verdict was manslaughter, and a sentence of five years in the penitentiary at hard labor was imposed. After serving about two years he died.

On the part of the State the trial was conducted by William Gribben, prosecuting attorney, assisted by William Mungen; the defence by M. C. Whiteley and Andrew Coffinberry.

There lived in Findlay in 1868, a man by the name of Adam Conkle, who had a wife whose character was not above reproach, and it was alleged that she had been frequently visited by one James Winnell, a young man employed about the offices of the court house as copyist. He was almost a stranger, and but little known of him, but he was generally regarded as a dissipated rough. He was, however, a fine penman. His visits to Mrs. Conkle coming to the knowledge of her husband, the latter warned Winnell not to come near his house, nor to hold any communication whatever with his wife, on penalty of being killed. But Winnell, whilst on one of his sprees, in April, 1868, visited the residence of Conkle, who then resided on East Main Cross Street. Being apprised of Winnell's visit, Conkle immediately hurried home, and on ascending the stairs, found Winnell and his wife in a room together. He of course, being highly excited, commanded Winnell to leave, who no doubt being afraid of bodily harm, seized a cavalry saber which happened to be in the room, assaulted Conkle, drove him from the room, and made his escape down the stairway. Thereupon Conkle seized a loaded shotgun standing in the hall and gave pursuit. Winnell fled across the lot in the rear of the house, scaled the fence into what is known as Hyatt's Alley, and made his way westward toward Main Street, hotly pursued by Conkle. When about two hundred feet east of Main Street, Winnell being closely pressed, turned upon

Conkle with the saber which he still retained, when Conkle fired at him, the charge entering near the left temple, causing instant death.

Conkle gave himself up, and after a coroner's inquest was held on the body of Winnell, had a preliminary hearing before E. T. Dunn, Esq., who held him to answer to the Grand Jury, in a bond of $1,500. The said jury, in October, 1868, returned a true bill of indictment for murder in the second degree. The trial was held in November, 1868, with Judge James Pillars on the bench. The prosecution was conducted by William Anderson, who was then prosecuting attorney, assisted by A. B. Shaffer. The defence was conducted by Henry Brown and A. Blackford, of Findlay, and W. V. Layton, of Wapakonetta. A great number of witnesses were examined, and the case was closely tried. The defence was that the prisoner, at the time of killing, was acting in self-defence, having been attacked by Winnell with a deadly weapon. Verdict of the jury, not guilty. The verdict was generally regarded as a just one. Conkle left the county at once, and was lost sight of from that day. The woman in the case also left before the day of trial, and has never returned.

On the morning of February 3, 1873, Jacob Gartee, a young man about twenty years of age, and whose parents resided in the town, deliberately murdered Nicolas Bensing, residing on the farm of M. D. Shaffer, Esq., just east of town, on the Tiffin road. Sheriff James L. Henry, Coroner Karst and Marshal John Ruhl had already, during the night, been informed of the murder, it having occurred early in the evening of the 2nd of February, and were on the ground, and before daylight of the 3rd had the murderer under arrest. The facts, as they afterwards developed, were substantially as follows: Gartee had been in the employ of Bensing for some time, chopping wood, and he boarded in the family. On the night of the murder, having armed himself with a single barreled pistol, he gave notice at the supper table that he was going into town. Mrs. Bensing, the wife of the murdered man, gave him a letter to mail, and he started, but instead of going directly to town, he concealed himself in the log barn in which the chickens were kept, and by causing an alarm among the chickens, he induced Bensing to approach to ascertain the cause. When the latter was within a few feet of him he placed the pistol between the logs and fired, striking Bensing in the breast, who retreated a few steps, fell and expired just as his wife, who had been alarmed by the report, arrived on the scene. Gartee then ran down the lane to the Tiffin road near the residence of William Snyder and thence proceeded to town.

After remaining in town a short time, he started to return to Bensing's, but was met on the road by a messenger, who informed him of Bensing's death, and a request that he return to town and inform the friends of the murdered man. Gartee returned with the friends and the officers, having become convinced that Gartee was the murderer, John Ruhl boldly charged him with the crime, which he admitted, and pointed out the place where the pistol was secreted. He was immediately arrested and lodged in jail. There were some ugly rumors

afloat to the effect that the wife of the murdered man was perhaps a party to the crime; and the fact that the prisoner and the murdered man were good friends and had had no quarrel, and the further fact that there was no apparent cause for the commission of such a cold blooded murder, gave some color to the truth of these rumors. At the preliminary examination held before D. B. Beardsley, J. P., which was a most rigid one, so far as Mrs. Bensing was concerned, no evidence sustaining the theory of her guilt was found. Gartee was committed without bail for the crime of murder, and on May 28, 1873, the Grand Jury returned an indictment of murder in the first degree. The case came up for trial, on a plea of not guilty, before Judge Pillars, and a carefully selected jury. The trial began on the 29th day of July and lasted about ten days.

The plea for the defence was insanity. The prosecution was conducted by Prosecuting Attorney George F. Pendleton and W. H. Anderson, and the prisoner defended by Henry Brown and M. D. Shaffer. The verdict of the jury was "murder in the second degree." The prisoner was sentenced to the penitentiary for life, at which place he died in less than a year from the time of his sentence.

The death by poison, of Mrs. Malissa Charles, wife of John Charles, on the 6th day of June, 1876, threw Orange Township and all that part of the county into a state of wild excitement, which was intensified when it was known that Isaac B. Charles, a brother of the husband of the deceased, had been arrested, charged with the crime of murder. At the preliminary examination, before William M. McKinley, Esq., as well as on the final trial, the circumstances connected with the case were developed about as follows: Mrs. Charles had made bread from flour purchased shortly before at Ada, O., and the family partaking of it, became suddenly sick, eleven of them in all, and Mrs. Charles died from its effects. The prosecution had two theories regarding the matter. One was, that the flour, after being purchased at Ada, had remained in the wagon standing in an alley, while the family were at dinner, and that whilst there, the sack had been opened by the prisoner and poison introduced, which showed its presence in the bread. The other theory was that the poison—arsenic—had been placed in the yeast crock at the house of the murdered woman, by Isaac B. Charles while on a visit to the family, and that the poison had been obtained from a quantity purchased by John Charles, husband of the woman, for the purpose of killing rats, and left in the room where the yeast crock stood, which was a kind of up-ground cellar. The cause for the poisoning—for there seemed no apparent one—was said to be found in the fact that Isaac B. Charles, having been formerly treasurer of the village of Ada, and about to become a defaulter, made use of a large sum of money belonging to the estate of his father, of which estate he was administrator, and now that a settlement was to be made, formed a plan of murdering, by poison or otherwise, all who stood between himself and the balance of his father's fortune, and that the poisoning of this family was but the first step in the plan.

An indictment for "Murder by Poison" was found on the 21st of October, 1876.

After much delay and the interpositions of a number of motions, the case was finally tried in January, 1877, before Judge Pillars and a jury on a general plea of "Not guilty." The verdict rendered was "Guilty of Murder in Second Degree." The prosecution was ably conducted by Henry Brown, prosecuting attorney, assisted by Frank H. Dougherty, of Kenton, and W. H. Whiteley, of Findlay, and the defense was stubbornly made by A. Blackford, J. F. Burkett and J. H. Smick, of Ada. Charles was sentenced to the penitentiary for life, but after serving about twenty-five years was paroled upon the condition that he was never to return to Hancock County.

Professional jealousy gave rise to one serious crime in the history of our county. In 1877 there lived in the village of Benton Ridge, this county, Henry K. Nott and Frank H. Knapp, both practicing physicians. Unfortunately there had sprung up bad feelings between the two, the result, no doubt, of professional jealousy and the over-officious meddling by the friends of both parties, and although mutual threats had been made, no one could believe that much else than a war of words, or at the farthest, a little bout at fisticuffs would be the result. Imagine the consternation when the news spread over the village that Dr. Knapp had in broad daylight shot Dr. Nott to death, on one of the streets of the town. Dr. Knapp was at once arrested, taken before John Bergman, Esq., who at once remanded him to the jail of the county to await the action of the Grand Jury. Intense excitement prevailed; the friends of the two unfortunate men took sides, and for a time society was so torn up that almost everybody in the village, or who came to it, was regarded with suspicion by one side or the other. The killing was done on the 15th day of November, 1877, and the court being then in session, a special Grand Jury was duly impanelled on the 5th day of December, which returned a verdict of "Murder in the First Degree."

On this indictment the defendant was tried on a plea of "Not Guilty," the defense being that the shooting was done in self-defense, it being claimed that the murdered man had made an assault on the defendant just previous to the shooting, and that he had fired two shots at the defendant intending to kill him, and that to save his own life the defendant did the shooting which killed Dr. Nott. This the prosecution denied, and alleged and sought to prove that at the time of the shooting and just previously thereto, there had been no quarrel, no meeting in fact between the parties, but that the defendant had gone to the lower end of the village, procured a gun, came back, sought out his victim, whom he found on a side street, approached him unperceived, and without notice deliberately shot him, from the effects of which Dr. Nott immediately expired. Upon these declarations the case was tried before a jury, impanelled after all the motions and objections known in criminal practice had been made and overruled, Judge Pillars presiding. After a trial which lasted twelve days, and arguments covering three days more, the jury returned a verdict of "Not Guilty." Prosecuting Attorney Henry Brown and E. T. Dunn conducted the prosecution, and A. Blackford and M. D. Shaffer managed the defense.

William Trankner was indicted for murder in the first degree, having stabbed one Frank Ricksecker, September 7, 1889, from the effects of which wound the said Ricksecker died the next day. Upon trial, Trankner was found guilty of manslaughter, and was sentenced to serve a term of seven years in the Ohio Penitentiary. Jas. A. Bope, prosecutor. Dunn, Meehan & Doty, attorneys for defendant.

Joseph Donovan was indicted for murder in the second degree, having killed one John McManness, November 3, 1889; was tried and found guilty. He was sentenced by Judge A. B. Johnson, to five years in the Ohio Penitentiary. Harlan F. Burket, prosecutor, assisted by Jas. A. Bope. E. T. Dunn, attorney for defendant.

James Lawson was indicted for first degree murder and was found guilty of manslaughter, at the October term of court, 1892. He was sentenced to three years in the Ohio Penitentiary.

George Karg for the killing of one Abraham Wise was indicted by the Grand Jury, at the September term of court, 1895, was found guilty of manslaughter and sentenced to the penitentiary for a period of ten years. Theo. Totten, prosecutor. E. T. Dunn and C. W. Bente, attorneys for defendant.

On the 3d day of August, 1896, Amos Decker shot and killed one George Miles. He was indicted by the Grand Jury for first degree murder. At the close of the evidence offered by the State, Decker tendered a plea of guilty of manslaughter, which was accepted and he was sentenced to serve a term of twenty years at hard labor in the Ohio penitentiary. Theo. Totten, prosecutor. E. T. Dunn and John Poe, attorneys for defendant.

On the 20th day of February, 1898, while attempting to capture and arrest Frank Carmen and Edward Pratt, who were burglarizing a storehouse of the New York, Chicago and St. Louis Railroad Company, Police Officer William Holly was shot and killed. The two men were taken and indicted jointly for murder in the first degree. Separate trials were had for these men which resulted in the acquittal of Pratt and the conviction of Carmen of manslaughter. Carmen was sentenced by Judge Charles M. Melhorn, to the Ohio penitentiary for a term of twenty years. Charles E. Jordan, prosecutor. John Poe, attorney for defendants.

As the result of a drunken brawl, John Sherman met his death at the hands of his brother-in-law William Teal, May 9, 1907. Teal was indicted by the Grand Jury, June 3d, 1907, for murder in the second degree. His trial began on the 7th day of October, that year, and the jury returned its verdict of guilty of manslaughter, on the 11th day of the same month. Ten days later he was sentenced by Judge William F. Duncan, to serve a term of ten years in the Ohio penitentiary. Prosecutor, William L. David. Attorney for defendant, E. T. Dunn.

As the result of a quarrel over a game of craps, Arthur White, a colored man, met his death at the hands of one Richard Drake, also colored. White died July 12, 1904, just seven days after having been stabbed by his assailant, who was later indicted by the Grand Jury upon a charge of murder in the second degree, was tried at the September, 1904, term of court, found guilty as charged, and sentenced to five years in the Ohio penitentiary. Drake's attorney, Charles V. Bish, prosecuted error to the Circuit Court and succeeded in reversing the judgment of the Common Pleas Court, secur-

ing a new trial for his client. Upon the second trial, February 4, 1905, Drake was acquitted of the charge. Prosecuting attorney, William L. David. Counsel for defendant, C. V. Bish.

There were a few other indictments found for felonies of the kind treated of in this chapter, but the parties were never put on trial under the indictments. In 1854, Philemon P. Pool was indicted for an assault with intent to kill. Samuel Ramsey was indicted for stabbing Nicolas Oram with intent to kill. Dr. R. J. Haggerty was indicted for the killing of Dr. Mansfield at Mt. Blanchard, and Levi Chain was indicted for the killing of his son at Findlay, by stabbing him with his pocket knife. All these cases were disposed of on pleas for lesser offenses.

FIRST JAIL AND COURTHOUSE.

In July, 1830, the county commissioners determined to build a jail, and it was ordered that said jail should be "sixteen feet wide, and twenty-four feet long, with a partition in the center. The timber to be white oak, twelve inches square, with two doors and three windows." The jail was built on the Public Square, its site being about midway between the present Court House and "old white corner store"—now the Buckeye National Bank Corner. With this location it seems that some of the citizens of the county were not well pleased, for in December of the same year, it is recorded that a petition was presented by sundry citizens praying for the removal of the jail from the Public Square in the town of Findlay. But the commissioners rejected the petition, thinking no doubt that the sight of such an institution would have a restraining effect upon the somewhat wild community. It was not, however, a formidable looking structure, and that it had neither beauty nor strength to recommend it. The prisoners used to amuse themselves by burning down the door, or removing the iron bars from the windows, and after escaping, report themselves to the sheriff, who would conduct them back to the place whence they came. But the old log jail was finally superseded by a structure more in keeping with the wants of the county, and providing for the better security of the prisoners. (The first building south of the Post Office, now owned by B. Webber), and this in its turn has since been replaced by a structure magnificent in its proportions, and of ample security.

Previous to the year 1831 the courts had been held in the old log schoolhouse, but now increased facilities had become necessary. The minds of the people had been prepared for a building such as was needed, and the financial condition of the county was such as to permit its erection. Whereupon the county commissioners at their December session in 1831, ordered as follows:

"That advertisements be posted up in three public places, for constructing, putting up and furnishing a frame in the village of Findlay, the building to be 24 feet by 36 feet, two stories high. Lower story to be nine feet in the clear, and the upper story eight and a half feet in the clear. Lower story to have a hall or entry eight feet in the clear. Lower story to have a hall or entry eight feet wide, through the center, with good partitions on either side of planed boards. The one end to be divided by a partition through the center, dividing it into equal parts. A good substantial flight of stairs to be put up in the entry. One front door, one back door to said entry, both to be of panelled doors, the front one to have four lights over it. Four twenty-light windows in front, and two back of twenty lights each in lower story, and five twenty-light windows in front in upper story and three same size back.

Glass to be eight by ten, and well puttied in. The upper story to be ceiled with three-quarter boards, planed, tongued and grooved. A good joint shingle roof to be put on. The building to be underpinned with a good, rough stone wall, laid in lime and sand mortar, raised eighteen inches above the surface. With plain door into each room, all the doors to be hung with three-inch cast-iron butts, the lower floor to be laid out of white ash boards, not to exceed six inches in width. The upper floor to be of white or blue ash boards of the same width; both floors to be tongued and grooved, and joints broken, and well nailed. The sills, posts and sleepers of the frame to be of white oak, the studding not to exceed two feet from center to center, joists same distance apart. Good sufficient locks on all the doors, and plain latches and handles. Plain eave-troughs and cornice. The front to be weather-boarded with poplar, planed, and the remainder with black walnut, rough. A washboard and chair-board upstairs and down, a plain bannistering to the stairs, together with substantial bannistering at the top of the stairs."

The commissioners met on the 16th day of January, 1832, the time appointed for opening the bids for the above work. Two proposals were handed in, one from Mathew Reighley for $750.00 and one from William Taylor, Frederick Henderson and Jonathan Parker for $700.00, which last bid was accepted. In June, 1833, the commissioners met and received proposals for plastering the court house, when the bid of Parlee Carlin was accepted, the price, however, was not named. Whereupon, Parlee Carlin entered into a bond to lath and plaster the several rooms in the Court House in a durable and workmanlike manner, and complete the same by the first of the following November. The building was erected on the southwest corner of Main and Crawford streets, the site now occupied by the Jones Building (First National Bank), and was used as a court house, school house and church until the completion of a brick structure court house in 1841. The old court house has since been removed to the south part of Main Street, just north of the First Presbyterian Church, (now the Donnel Block), and was occupied by Jacob Carr and family as a residence. After having served as a court house it was for many years used as a hotel. The county commissioners were very solicitous about the good usage and the authorized occupancy of this new structure, and passed not a few orders touching the matter, and prescribing the terms on which it could be occupied.

The Court House was examined and accepted by the commissioners in March, 1833. At their December session, 1834, it was "ordered that the auditor do cause to be erected in the Court House a suitable seat for the Court. Also that he do procure two sets of chairs for the Court room." At a session of December, 1836, "Ordered that all religoius societies be prohibited from holding meetings in the Court House after the 1st day of January, 1837." But the authorities soon relented, if indeed they ever attempted to enforce the order, for at their very next session, that of March, 1837, the records show this action: "Ordered that the Presbyterian Church and the Methodist Episcopal Church, of the town of Findlay, each pay into the treasury of Hancock County, the sum of seventy-five cents per month for the time they occupy the same, for the use of the Court House for religious purposes, to commence from this date." At the same session it was "Ordered that the Directors of School District No. 1, in Findlay Township, pay into the county treasury at the rate of eleven dollars for six months, for the use of the Court room for a district school."

But everything in time outlives its useful-

ness, and in March, 1840, it was ordered by the commissioners "that the auditor of the county of Hancock offer the lot that the old Court House stands on, including said building, at public sale, one third of the purchase money in hand, the balance in two equal annual payments, on the third Saturday of May next, advertising the same thirty days previous to the day of sale." The property was sold to one Jacob Barnel.

CHAPTER X.

THE PRESS.

Early News Conditions—Presses in Use—The Old Time Compositor—Leading Newspapers of the County—Their Proprietors and Editors—Value of the Daily Press.

In the early history of our county mail facilities were poor, the mails being carried on horseback, and by the time the few newspapers taken by the people reached their destination, the news was stale. It took a month at least to get the latest news from Europe, and in the very early days of journalism in this section, local items were almost unknown. The papers were filled chiefly with the doings of Congress, the quarrels of the political parties, and foreign affairs. The daily then was not dreamed of, and such papers as there were contained few original communications.

The first newspapers were printed on the old hand press, the famous "Washington," which is still found in some country offices, especially in the South. Working this press required the strength of a giant, and of course but one page of the paper could be printed at a time. There were few editorials in those days; the editor relied chiefly upon scissors and paste-pot, and never troubled himself about "leaders" and the like. It required half the week to print the meager edition on the miserable presses then in vogue, and not infrequently the editor took a turn at the press himself.

In those days also the enterprising reporter was unknown. There was no county correspondence, no recording of neighborhood doings, no localizing at all. The old newspapers just plodded along. The publishers took nearly everything in exchange for subscriptions—wood, flour, garden produce, and even whiskey.

There was no "display" in the few advertisements that found their way into the first newspapers of the county, and the knack of writing advertisements had not then been discovered. There were advertisements of musters, strayed animals, runaway apprentices, and little more, I believe that the newspapers of the past were as much read by their patrons as are those of the present day, because they had nothing else to read, if we except the few dry volumes that looked lonely on the bookshelf of the home. The papers were then read aloud at night to the household by the head of it, including the month-old news that filled the narrow columns. News not over a month old was considered fresh, and if a paper printed anything with not more

than a week's age upon it, it was looked upon as a marvel of enterprise.

The old-time compositor was usually a character. He tramped the country afoot, and when the editor was out of town he "set up" the paper, worked the press himself, collected subscriptions, and, in short, was the "whole thing." Some of these geniuses did not belong to the temperance societies, and now and then the non-appearance of the paper was owing to the chronic "indisposition"—to use no harsher term. The tramp printer has almost disappeared, though now and then one puts in an appearance, works a few days, and again becomes the "Wandering Jew" of the profession.

On the 10th of November, 1836, the first issue of the paper now called the Hancock Courier was given to the few citizens of the small hamlet of Findlay. The Courier is older than the city, as Findlay was not incorporated until two years later. It was the first newspaper in Northwestern Ohio and for a time it had a precarious existence. At that time it was an 18x26 inch sheet. The nearest paper mill was at Delaware, with no means of transportation save by wagon over muddy, and at times, almost impassable roads; it might perhaps be said that there were no roads at all. The paper was first called the Findlay Courier, but at the beginning of the second volume the name was lengthened to "The Findlay Courier and Hancock and Putnam Democratic Shield." In 1851 the name was changed to The Hancock Courier, and this name has been retained ever since, except that the superfluous "The" was dropped in 1862.

The Findlay Courier was established November 10, 1826, by Jacob Rosenberg and edited and published by him until January 17, 1839. Mr. Rosenberg was born in Bedford, Bedford County, Pa., October 13, 1811. He came to Findlay on the 29th of September, 1836, and started the paper shortly after, as stated above. On the 24th of January, 1839, Mr. Henry Bishop purchased the Courier and edited and published it until July 1, 1845. Mr. Bishop was born and raised in Franklin County, Ohio. In 1851 he was elected to the Ohio legislature and filled the office with ability for two terms. After selling out the office in 1845 he removed to his farm in Eagle Township. He was drowned in Eagle Creek in June, 1855.

On July 1, 1845, Mr. William Mungen purchased the Courier and conducted it until some time in November, 1849. In November, 1849, Mr. William Case rented the office for one year. He was an easy-going, careless fellow and never appeared to care whether or not the paper came out on time. During this year Mr. Mungen did most of the editorial work. At the close of Mr. Case's lease the office was rented to Mr. B. F. Rosenberg for a short time. In the spring of 1851 Mr. Henry Brown purchased a half interest in the Courier. (See his sketch in the chapter on Bench and Bar.) Some time in the spring of 1851 Mr. Aaron Blackford purchased the interest of Mr. Mungen in the Courier and continued in partnership with Mr. Brown until the close of 1856. Mr. Blackford's biography also may be found in the chapter on Bench and Bar.

In January 1857 Mr. Benjamin F. Rosen-

berg purchased the Courier and conducted it for six months. Mr. Rosenberg was the son of the founder of this paper. On the 25th of July, 1857, the Courier passed into the hands of Mr. A. M. Hollabaugh, who published and edited it until March 1, 1861. On the eighth of March, 1862, Messrs. L. Glessner and son assumed the charge of editing and publishing the Courier and continued until January 1, 1865. On the 1st of January, 1865, Mr. William L. Glessner assumed control of the Courier and edited and published the same until May 1, 1866.

Mr. Lewis Glessner assumed charge of the Courier from May 1, 1866, until his death, which occurred March 13, 1879. The Daily Courier was established March, 1887, by G. and Fred Glessner, from which time Fred Glessner assumed control and served as general manager and editor until February 24, 1898, when Arnold and Mr. Henry took possession for one year. Afterwards J. L. Patterson, T. A. Dean and others formed a stock company and purchased and assumed control of the Courier and under their management the paper made rapid progress. October 29, 1902, Mr. Patterson released his holdings to other parties and the paper immediately passed under the management of T. A. Dean.

In 1889 a company was incorporated with capital stock of $25,000.00 and on July 20, 1903, it was combined with the Findlay Union. On June 17th, 1904, control passed to H. W. Brown and his associates, Mr. Brown assumed control, which he had held to present date. The present officers are: C. E. Jordan, president; M. G. Foster, vice-president; W. F. Hosler, sec. and treas.; and H. W. Brown, editor and general manager. This paper dates back to the days when Hancock County was just emerging from its primitive condition and Findlay was a straggling hamlet of cabins. It has published the obituaries of several opposition papers during the period of sixty-seven years, and has ever battled for Democracy and the rights and liberties of the people.

The Hancock Republican, the first Whig paper published in the county, was established by Arnold F. Merriam in January, 1838. It had a brief existence of about one year and, probably owing to lack of patronage, died a natural death in its infancy.

The Hancock Farmer was started by Jacob Rosenberg in 1842 as a Democratic paper in favor of nominating candidates by the delegate system instead of by popular vote, the latter system being advocated by Mr. Bishop of the Courier. The Farmer was published by Mr. Rosenberg until his death in October, 1844, and afterwards by the administrator Jacob Barnd. Early in 1845 William Mungen took possession of the office and issued his first number February 19th of that year. Toward the close of June Mr. Mungen purchased the Courier and consolidated the papers as the Democratic Courier.

The Western Herald was established by John T. Ford in January, 1845, in the second story of the old frame building on the corner of Main and Sandusky Streets now the Niles block. It was the second Whig paper started in Findlay. October 5, 1845, Mr. James M. Coffinberry assumed full control and edited and published the paper as The Findlay Herald until January, 1848, when he sold the office to Dr. David Patton and the paper soon after was suspended.

In September, 1848, Robert Coulter came

FOLK BROS.' STORE AND OFFICE, FINDLAY

TARBOX & McCALL PLANT, FINDLAY

THE C. L. SHEPPARD SANITORIUM & REMEDY CO., FINDLAY

CHARLES H. SHULER ELEVATOR, PLEASANT TOWNSHIP

to Findlay, purchased the Herald office and began the publication of a six-column folio paper called The Hancock Whig. He conducted the Whig until February, 1850, when he sold out to William P. Resznor, who published the paper about seven months, then disposed of it to George C. Lyon in September, 1850. Mr. Lyon was a man of great energy and with the hope of benefiting the paper changed its name to The Hancock Journal. In July, 1851, Mr. Coulter, who on selling out to Mr. Resznor had removed to Springfield, Ohio, returned to Findlay and again became the editor and publisher of the paper. Mr. Coulter published the paper until July, 1852, when the Journal suspended publication.

The first number of the Home Companion, a paper established by Samuel A. Spear, was issued June 8, 1854. It was a seven-column folio printed on a sheet 25 x 27 inches in size. The paper started as a non-political and more as an advocate of reform in the liquor law, and the advancement of education by the elevation and improvement of the public schools. In the spring of 1856 Mr. High L. McKee obtained an interest in the paper and was one of its principal promoters until April 24, 1857, when Mr. Spear became entire owner. On June 19, 1857, the name of the paper was changed to The Hancock Jeffersonian and it remained under the control of Mr. Spear until November 22, 1861, when it suspended business. After a few weeks Mr. D. R. Locke of Bucyrus, Ohio, came to Findlay and resuscitated the Jeffersonian. Under the new management the paper rapidly increased owing to the publication of the "Nasby Papers" which won for Mr. Locke a national reputation and the title of Petroleum V. Nasby. In September, 1864, Irvin S. Chamberlin purchased an interest in the Jeffersonian and in February, 1865, Mr. Locke sold his remaining interest to Otis F. Locke. In April the name of C. N. Locke appears in the editorial heading. On November 17, 1865, Mr. Chamberlin and C. N. Locke retired and Messrs. L. G. Thrall and Otis T. Locke became sole proprietors. In July, 1866, Mr. Thrall disposed of his interest to his partner and C. N. Locke again became one of the editors W. G. Blymer bought an interest in the Jeffersonian in December, 1866, and the firm was then Locke and Blymer. In February, 1868, C. N. Locke again purchased an interest and Locke & Blymer were editors and proprietors until September 4, 1868, when E. G. DeWolfe and Dr. A. P. Miller purchased the office.

On April 1, 1870, the paper came out in a ten-column folio as The Findlay Jeffersonian. In January, 1873, O. J. DeWolfe, a brother of E. G. DeWolfe bought Dr. Miller's interest and the paper continued under the management of the DeWolfe brothers until March, 1876, when E. G. DeWolfe became sole owner. The latter continued to edit and publish the Jeffersonian until April 28, 1876, when he sold it to his old partner, Dr. O. P. Miller, who before issuing a single number sold the office to A. H. Balsey, who published the first number under the new management May 5, 1876. He continued at the helm until January 6, 1902, when Mr. John M. Hoffa, of Bowling Green, purchased the office, and under the new management the paper is becoming one of the largest in circulation. On June 5, 1881, this paper was changed to the Findlay Weekly Jeffersonian, because the daily which was started November 15, 1880, was called the Findlay Daily Jeffersonian.

The Reporter was started June 18, 1872, by

C. G. and J. K. Barnd and originally was a literary paper. In October, 1872 J. K. Barnd sold his interest to C. G. Barnd and the paper attained a very respectable circulation until early in its second year, it drifted into the grange movement, hoping to become a great organ among the farming community But the change proved a mistake and the paper's patronage began decreasing. The name was finally changed to the American Patron and when the grange movement subsided it became the Property Journal. It was published about five years and then ceased to exist.

Das Ohio Volksblatt, a German Democratic weekly paper, was started in 1877 by Adolph G. Zwanzig. After publishing the paper about one year he removed the office to Lima, where it was subsequently sold by his creditors.

The Findlay Weekly Republican was established by J. M. Beelman and James E. Griswold and the first number issued February 6, 1879. It was started in opposition to the Jeffersonian, many Republicans not regarding that paper as sufficiently "stalwart" to satisfy their ideas of a party organ. In July, 1879, Mr. Griswold sold his interest to his partner who enlarged the paper to an eight-column folio. On the 3rd of January, 1881, E. G. DeWolfe, then postmaster of Findlay, and Jason Blackford, a member of the Findlay bar, purchased an interest in the Republican. The following October Mr. Blackford sold out to Mr. DeWolfe and the paper was subsequently enlarged to a nine-column folio. Capt. H. H. Alban bought Mr. Beelman's interest July 28, 1882, and the firm of DeWolfe & Alban edited and published the paper until the death of Mr. DeWolfe, which occurred August 8, 1888, when H. P. Crouse became editor and S. P. DeWolfe business manager. On April 1, 1900, Mr. Crouse sold his interest to Jesse Huber, and I. N. Heminger and Mr. Huber became editor. On December 7, 1901, Mr. DeWolfe purchased more stock in the paper and became editor while Mr. I. N. Heminger became business manager. Mr. Alban about 1890 sold his interest to other stockholders and thus severed his connection with the paper. In November, 1903, the Findlay Publishing Company was organized and incorporated with a capital stock of $75,000.00, and purchased the Morning Republican and Evening Jeffersonian and continued the publication of both editions and at present they have a combined circulation exceeding 6,000 copies daily. The officers of the Findlay Publishing Company at this writing are as follows: President, Dr. U. L. MacLaughlan; vice-president, E. C. Taylor; secretary, J. D. Snyder; business manager and treasurer, I. N. Heminger. Mr. DeWolfe disposed of his interest in the Republican upon the organization of the Findlay Publishing Company in 1909. These papers moved into their new and commodious building at 308 Broadway, where they now have one of the finest newspaper plants in Ohio.

The Findlay Star was established by W. S. Hammaker and first issued August 21, 1882. It was a live progressive little daily, thoroughly Democratic in politics and during its career of less than two years was a welcome friend in 550 homes and business places. On April 21, 1884, Mr. A. H. Balsey, of the Jeffersonian, purchased the Star and consolidated it with the business of that office. In 1903 the Jeffersonian was purchased by the Findlay Publishing Company and is now published by that company.

The Findlay Wochenblatt, a German weekly newspaper, was established October 28, 1886,

by A. Weixelbaum. The paper had a successful growth, and on April 1, 1888, Mr. Christian Heyn purchased the Wochenblatt and is now the owner. The Wochenblatt is regarded as a first-class German newspaper.

The Findlay Union was established in November, 1890, by H. Wilts Brown and Rufus M. Hern and was published under this firm name until March, 1892, when on account of ill health Mr. Horn sold his interest. August 1, 1903, the Courier Company purchased and consolidated the Union with the Hancock Courier, Mr. Brown, former publisher of the Union, becoming editor of the Courier.

Of papers published elsewhere in this county the following are worthy of special mention:

The McComb Record was started July 4, 1894, by E. L. Sutton and L. G. Herbert, and a few months later was sold to the H. H. Moore Printing Company.

The McComb Herald was organized in 1881, by J. F. Hickerson and others. S. B. Davis, R. M. Horn, H. M. Pomeroy and Daniel Dyer have at different times been editors and managers of this paper. Mr. C. W. Griswold is the present editor and manager The McComb Herald has the largest circulation of any paper in the county, excepting the two Findlay dailies. It reaches at least twenty-seven per cent of all the people residing in McComb and the vicinity, giving all local and general news that would be of interest to the people. The circulation in round numbers has reached 1,200.

Arlington can boast of a paper second to none for towns of its size. This paper is published by Mr. Frank Bitler, a very able writer.

There were other papers in various localities of this county, some are still living, while others have lapsed into oblivion. "But," in the words of a former historian, "whatever their length of life was or may be, the newspapers are one of the best educational mediums we today possess. The farmer, the laborer, the merchant, the banker, the mechanic, the professional man; the business man in all stages of physical, mental or moral duties have each an equal opportunity to instill in their minds the current history as it swiftly glides across the stage of time."

CHAPTER XI.

THE MEDICAL PROFESSION.

Hancock County Medical Men of the Past and of the Present.

The first permanent physician in Hancock County, was Dr. Bass Rawson, who was born April 17, 1799, in the town of Orange, Franklin County, Mass. He was one of five brothers, who removed from Massachusetts at an early day and settled in Ohio, four being physicians. In his boyhood he worked on a farm and attended a country school. From the farm he went to learn the trade of hatter, which he worked at until he was about twenty years of age, but, his health somewhat failing him, he determined to relinquish it and engaged in the study of medicine. With this end in view he entered an academy at New Salem, Mass., which he attended several terms. In the meanwhile he taught school for the purpose of earning money to defray the necessary expense of his education. At the age of twenty-five he married and immigrated to Ravenna, Ohio, where he remained a few months. He then removed to Otsego County, New York, locating at Richfield. Here he again taught school. Previous to his leaving Massachusetts he had studied medicine for a few months, but on his return to the east he took up the study seriously, with the intention of qualifying himself as a physician, Dr. Thomas, of Richfield, becoming his preceptor. In the winter of 1826-27 he attended medical lectures at Dartmouth College, New Hampshire, and at the close of the collegiate term returned to his father's house at New Salem and continued the reading of medicine with Dr. Brooks of Orange. In June, 1828, he removed to Ohio and practiced a little more than a year with his brother, Dr. Secretary Rawson, who resided in Medina County, Ohio. In September, 1829, he removed to Findlay, where he settled permanently in the practice of his profession. The place had been but recently settled and only twelve white families resided within its limits, the Indians being more numerous than the whites. Here the doctor practiced without cessation, for over sixty years. He was a member and earnest supporter of the Presbyterian church. In politics he was a Republican. His death occurred December 28, 1891. The writer remembers a little incident that happened to the Doctor, and which he used to tell.

When making the trip from Medina County, to Hancock County, they stopped along the roadway to rest and prepare a

meal. While thus engaged, a man rode up and asked if this was the new doctor that was coming to live in the neighborhood, the Doctor replying that he was, the man then said that he had a very sick wife, and would the Doctor please come right away and see her. And so, eating a hurried meal, the Doctor went away with the man. Thus his practice was started, even before he had reached the end of his journey into the new country that he had picked out for his future home.

Charles Oesterlin, M. D., was born in Weinsburg, Kingdom of Wurttemberg, October 5, 1807. When quite young he attended school at Laufen on the Necker. At fourteen he entered the gymnasium at Stuttgart, from which he graduated at the age of eighteen in a thorough literary, scientific and classical course. He then went to Tubingen, where he engaged in medical studies under an able professor. In 1832 he came to America and after spending some considerable time in traveling through the country located in Ashland, Ohio, in 1834. September 30, 1836, he came to Findlay, where he was engaged in his profession until his death, which occurred January 18, 1889. In 1846 he embarked in merchandising here for two years, at the end of which time he retired. From 1848 to 1862 he served in the councils of the city; in 1871 he was elected to the legislature and filled that office for one term. In 1863 Dr. Oesterlin visited his native land and again in 1876, when he was recalled by the loss of several thousand dollars through the breaking of the Findlay Savings Bank Company. In June, 1885, along with his estimable wife, who had always accompanied him, he again started for his old home in the Fatherland but got sick in New York and did not cross the ocean, but returned home. Mr. Oesterlin was an ardent supporter of all measures tending to advance public interest. He was probably the first to advocate boring for natural gas at this place and was one of the stockholders of the Findlay Natural Gas Company.

William H. Baldwin, M. D., was born in Champaign County, Ohio, January 16, 1810, and settled in Findlay, Ohio, in the fall of 1832. Having studied and attended lectures at Cincinnati, he entered the medical profession in early life and rose to a very respectable rank as a physician. His high reputation and success gained him a very large practice, which extended into adjoining counties, as well as all over the one in which he lived. His extensive practice necessitated long and frequent rides, and those who enjoy the advantage and improvements of the present day know but little of what those rides involved. There were but few well beaten roads and scarcely any bridges, streams had to be forded, swamps and marshes had to be crossed and large tracts of country often under water had to be traveled; but distance, difficulties and ceaseless labors, neither discouraged nor checked this faithful physician in his untiring efforts to release the afflicted, honor his profession, and supply the wants of those dependent upon him for support. Dr. Baldwin was married April 18, 1835, to Mary J. Patterson, who was born July 13, 1817, in Harrison County, Ohio, daughter of John Patterson, who came to Findlay in 1834. In all the relations of life Dr. Baldwin was considerate, respectful, just and honorable

and enjoyed the highest esteem of all the people, but hard and indefatigable labors at last produced their effects; the vigorous constitution was impaired, and he who had been the embodiment of health, and had so successfully practiced the healing art upon others, became prematurely old and feeble, and so continued during the few years before his death, which occurred December 14, 1868.

William D. Carlin, M. D., was born at Maumee City, April 27, 1822. His parents had settled here previous to the War of 1812. Dr. Carlin was the son of Squire Carlin, a pioneer of Hancok County of the year 1826. He was but four years of age when his parents settled in Findlay, where he grew to manhood, obtaining such education as the limited facilities of a frontier village could furnish. Before he was twenty years old he began the study of medicine with Dr. Bass Rawson, the pioneer physician of the county. In March, 1843, one month before he was twenty-one years of age, he graduated with honors from the Cincinnati Medical College. After his graduation Dr. Carlin began the practice of his profession in Findlay and continued actively engaged until 1846, when he was made surgeon of the Fifteenth United States Regular Infantry and went with his command to Mexico as that country and the United States were at war. He was the youngest surgeon in the American army. He served with distinction during the struggle and achieved a high reputation both as a soldier and surgeon. After his return from the war Dr. Carlin resumed the practice of his profession in Findlay. March 6, 1845, he was married to Harriet E. H. Rawson, daughter of Dr. Base Rawson, his medical preceptor. Three children were the fruit of this union—Dr. Cass R. Carlin, ex-Senator William L. Carlin and Mrs. Sarah A. Dondore. Of the three, only one—William L.—is now living. In 1849, on the discovery of gold in California, Dr. Carlin made a trip to the new gold fields in company with his father, brother and others. The party crossed the great plains and the Rocky Mountains. On his return to Ohio he made a second trip to the gold region, going and returning by the sea and the Isthmus of Panama. In the spring of 1862 he was appointed chief surgeon of the Fifty-seventh Ohio Volunteer Infantry, for service in the civil war. His experience in the Mexican war had given him a reputation as an army surgeon, and this fact was recognized by the government in making the appointment. Dr. Carlin did splendid service in his regiment and was the means of preventing much suffering and many hardships. He died in the service for his country at Milliken's Bend, Tenn., December 26, 1862, four months before reaching his forty-first year. He had led an active and useful life. Dr. Carlin was a man of kind and generous impulses and was held in high esteem by his fellow citizens. He was enterprising and public spirited and ever ready to do what he could to advance the interests of the town and county. He was held in great respect by the members of the medical profession, who depended largely upon him for advice and counsel. At the time he entered for service in the Civil War he had a large and lucrative practice in the town and county. He was the grandfather of Rawson K. Carlin, present police judge of Findlay.

Anson Hurd, M. D., was born in Twinsburg, Summit County, Ohio, December 27, 1824. His parents Robert and Mary (Brainerd) Hurd hailed from Connecticut and came from families whose names were connected

with the early settlement of that State. In 1839 Robert removed from Twinsburg, Ohio, to this county and for many years was a prominent leader in the development of Hancock County, laying out and platting the town of Arlington in 1844. He died in 1860, at the age of seventy-six, leaving a large family, who at present is scattered considerably over the country. Our subject came with his brother Jared, to this county, and at Arlington cleared the land and built the cabin occupied by their father on his arrival. At the age of twenty he returned to Twinsburg where he remained for three years under the instruction of the Rev. Samuel Bissell, D. D., president of Twinsburg Institute. He then taught school in Pike County, where, becoming acquainted with the Hon. J. L. Van Meter, of that county, he obtained a scholarship in Delaware College. After spending three years in that institution he engaged in the study of medicine with Dr. William Blackstone of Athens, and after a year, repaired to Columbus and read in the office of Prof. Samuel M. Smith, graduating from Starling Medical College in March, 1852. He then located in Oxford, Ind., where he practiced his profession for many years. In 1861 he represented the counties of White and Benton in the legislature of that State. Soon after the attack on Fort Sumter he was invited by Governor Morton, of Indiana, to accept the Post of Assistant Surgeon of the Twentieth Indiana Volunteer Infantry, which he accepted, serving through the first campaign to Hatteras. Returning to Fortress Monroe, he resigned his commission in the Twentieth and accepted that of surgeon of the Fourteenth, and served in all the battles of the Campaign of 1862. In January, 1863, he resigned his commission, and in April moved to Findlay, where he engaged in the practice of his profession. Dr. Hurd contributed to various medical journals in the way of some very fine articles and held offices of trust in the medical world. He was a liberal supporter of measures tending toward the growth of the community.

Lorenzo Firmin, M. D., was born March 31, 1809, in South Wilbraham, Mass., son of John Firmin. When quite young he learned the trade of shoemaking with his father, with whom he was connected in the east till 1834, when he came west to Richfield, Summit County, Ohio, and entered into partnership with Dr. Secretary Rawson, in a tannery, which he continued in until 1841, when he sold out to O. M. Oviatt, of Richfield. In 1841 he came to Findlay, Ohio, read medicine with Dr. Bass Rawson and graduated in the profession. He practiced at Benton, this county, till 1847, when he returned to Findlay, where he thought an opening existed, owing to the fact that several physicians from Findlay were holding positions in the army during the Mexican war. He was married June 28, 1838, to Clara H., daughter of Dr. Secretary Rawson. They had no children. Dr. Firmin continued his profession in this place until his retirement in 1877, after which he gave his attention to his private business matters, which were many and important. His first wife having died in 1891, he was again married in 1894, his second wife being Miss Mary B. Humphrey, a native of Findlay. His death, which occurred on October 12, 1901, was received with profound grief by the community where he so long had been a resident and a very efficient promoter of the interests of the city and county.

William D. Detwiler, M. D., was born in Mifflin County, Penn., August 23, 1832. He learned the trade of plastering with his father,

and in 1851 came west and located in Findlay where he carried on his trade for some time. He subsequently moved to Illinois, and, on returning from there in 1859 entered the office of Dr. Oesterlin, where he prosecuted the study of medicine. On the breaking out of the War of the Rebellion, our subject left his worthy preceptor's office and enlisted his service in defense of the Union. Three years of his time, however, were devoted to service as hospital steward, and upon the close of the war he returned to his medical studies, graduating from the Homeopathic Hospital College of Cleveland, Ohio, in 1867. Dr. Detwiler located in Findlay and for ten years was prominently identified with the profession of medicine in this portion of the State. His death occurred April 30, 1877. He was at that time president of the Ohio State Homeopathic Medical Society, and also president of the Alumni Association of Cleveland College. The Masonic, Odd Fellows, and Knights of Pythias societies, the Findlay Guards, and ex-soldiers all took part in the funeral ceremonies in his memory. Dr. Detwiler was an ardent Sabbath school and church worker, and was an acknowledged leader in all interests he sought to serve.

Tobias G. Barnhill, M. D., of Findlay, was born in Wayne County, Ohio, May 5, 1851, son of Joseph and Sarah (Frankhauser) Barnhill, the former a native of that county and of Pennsylvania pioneer ancestry, the latter born in Pickway County, Ohio. In 1853 they moved to this county and settled in Liberty Township, where they reared four sons and three daughters. Our subject who is the third child, received a good common school education and at seventeen engaged in teaching. At eighteen he began the study of medicine in the office of Drs. Oesterlin & Detwiler and in his twenty-second year graduated from the Cleveland Homeopathic Hospital College, class of 1873. He immediately began the practice of his profession in Findlay and has been successfully connected with it since introducing in 1880 his valuable medical baths. He married in 1874, Mary J., daughter of Conrad and Christiana Renninger, pioneers of Liberty Township, this county, and they have one son Joseph C. The doctor is a public spirited citizen and contributes liberally to the advancement of Hancock County's interests. He is a worthy Odd Fellow, a member of the Legion of Honor, has served as coroner of the county three terms and had been an active member of the board of education of Findlay. He owns and operates a large sanitarium where patients can go and receive the best care and treatment on very liberal terms.

Franklin Wayne Entrikin, M. D., was born in Chester County, Pa., July 27, 1830. He was the son of Emmor and Susannah Bennett Entrikin, of pioneer English Quaker ancestry in that state. In 1832 Emmor Entrikin moved to Columbiana County, Ohio, where he reared a family of five sons and one daughter in the Quaker faith. Franklin W. received a good literary training and at seventeen entered the Quaker academy at Salem. After completing a thorough literary and scientific course there he engaged in the study of dentistry, in which profession he spent a few years. He, however, continued to read medicine and graduated from the Ohio Medical College of Cincinnati. In 1855 he came to Findlay, where he spent most of his time since in professional practice until his death.

He, however, had spent some considerable time in public lecturing on his profession, and for three years held the chair of gynecolgy in Ft. Wayne, Indiana, Medical College. He has also contributed writings to many leading medical journals. He was a member of the Northwestern Ohio Medical Association and Cleveland Microscopical Society. He has had charge of the sanitariums in Cleveland and Green Springs. He served in the capacity of professor of gynecology in the Toledo Medical college in 1885 and delivered a full course of lectures in that institution in 1885 and 1886. The doctor married in October, 1851, Sarah Ann, daughter of Thomas Lyon of Deerfield, Portage County, Ohio, and by her he had three sons: Emmor L., a leading jeweler in this city; Leonidas A., also a jeweler; and Franklin B., a prominent young physican who is rapidly following in his father's foot-steps in his chosen profession. Our subject was a hard-working painstaking physican and was as much a student in his later days as he was when young.

Francis W. Firmin, M. D., was born in Richfield, Summit County, Ohio, July 15, 1842, and is a descendant of pioneers of that name in Massachusetts who came to our shores in 1630 in the fleet with Governor Winthrop. Our subject is a son of Francis B. and Mary (Chapin) Firmin. He received a good education in Wilbraham, Mass., and at Oberlin, Ohio. In 1862 he came to Ohio and engaged in the study of Medicine with his uncle, Lorenzo Firmin, and in 1867 graduated from the Cleveland Medical College. He located in Findlay, this county, and has been a very creditable professional worker here ever since. He married here 1869 Mary L. D., daughter of John A. Meeks, a pioneer minister of the Presbyterian Church. The doctor is a member of the American Medical Association, the Ohio State Medical Association and of the Northwestern Ohio Medical Association. July 15, 1863, he enlisted in Company E One Hundred and Twenty-ninth Ohio Volunteer Infantry and after serving his country for eight months was honorably discharged. He holds high rank in his profession as a liberal contributor to all measures tending to the development of the social and industrial life of this locality.

Joseph Parker Baker, M. D., was born in Perry Township, Wood County, Ohio, on the 9th of June, 1864. He was graduated at the Starling Medical College, Columbus, Ohio, in 1890; attended a course in the Polyclinic, New York, in 1894, and also a course at the Post Graduate, New York, in 1897. He is at present president of the Board of Health of Findlay, Ohio.

Don B. Biggs, M. D., was born at Arcada, Hancock County, Ohio, June 16, 1873. He was graduated from the High School at De Graff, Ohio; was three years at Delaware College, one year at the Ada Pharmacal School, three years at Somisville Medical College and graduated at Starling Medical College, Columbus, Ohio. He is an ex-coroner of Hancock County and a member of the Northwestern Ohio State and National Medical Societies.

John Charles Fremont Martin, M. D., was born at Covington, Miami County, Ohio, on November 10th, 1856, and was graduated at the Covington High School. He attended and was graduated from the Jefferson Medical College of Philadelphia, March 18th,

1881. He was an interne at the St. Mary's Hospital for two years. During 1883 and 1884 he was contract surgeon in the United States Army and was stationed at Ft. Keogh. During the Spanish-American war he served as Brigade Surgeon with the rank of Major. He is a graduate of the post-graduate course of London, England, and has practiced in Findlay since 1886.

Herbert Vinton Beardsley, M. D., was born in Findlay, Hancock County, Ohio, August 30, 1859. He received his literary education in the city schools and at the Oberlin College. He was graduated from the Cleveland Academy of Medicine in 1883 and practiced his profession for sixteen months at Ada, Ohio. He then removed to Findlay, where he has been in continued practice ever since. While an active politician, as every American citizen should be, he has never aspired for office, but served as member of the board of education for six years and is at the present time a member of the city council. He is identified with many fraternal societies and is the medical examiner of many insurance companies.

William M. Yost, M. D., was born in Thornville, Perry County, Ohio, April 14, 1835. He moved with his parents to Licking County, Ohio, April 1st, 1846, where he worked on the farm and attended the district school. He taught school from 1853 in winter and attended the Somerset Collegiate Institute in summer till 1860 when he was hired to superintend and teach the schools of Hebora, Licking County, Ohio, and then remained until July, 1862. He then enlisted as a private in Company "B,", 113th Reg. O. V. I., was promoted to the post of hospital steward and served in that capacity until the close of the war. He was mustered out July 15, 1865. After the war, in September, 1865, he entered Miami Medical College, at Cincinnati, Ohio, where he graduated March 15, 1868. He married Miss Rebecca A. Stewart of Jacksontown, Licking County, Ohio, May 26, 1868. Five children were born to them: Minnie L., Margaret J., Gertrude, Charles C., and Clarence C. Dr. Yost first practiced his profession in Houcktown, where he remained until May, 1876. He then moved to Mt. Blanchard, where he continued to practice until November, 1892, when he moved to Findlay, Ohio. He served on the school board continuously during his residence in Mt. Blanchard, Ohio. Dr. Yost served on the U. S. Pension Board of Examining Surgeons from 1884 to 1889 and from 1892 to 1897. He is still in practice at Findlay, Ohio.

A. W. Balsley, M. D., ex-coroner of Hancock County, was born November 14, 1872, and is a graduate of the Findlay High School, class of 1892, and of the University of Michigan (1899) and has practiced in Findlay for the last ten years. He is a member of the Hancock County, Ohio, State and American Medical Associations.

John M. Firmin, M. D., was born in Findlay, Ohio, October 31, 1872. He is a graduate of Findlay High School and Oberlin College (1894) and Master of Arts, 1897. He graduated from the College of Physicians and Surgeons, at Cleveland, Ohio, March 17, 1897; took the Post Graduate course at Bellevue Hospital in 1900. He has practiced in Findlay since his graduation.

Franklin B. Entrikin, M. D., was born in Findlay, Ohio, August 21, 1871. He attended the Findlay High School and Ohio State University, and was graduated from Ohio Medical

College at Cincinnati, in 1894, and subsequently practiced his profession in Findlay until his death, which occurred in Cincinnati, March 17, 1910. He was a member of the Association of Military Surgeons of the U. S. A., with a rank of Major of Medical Corps, Ohio National Guard; also a member of the Hancock County, Northwestern Ohio State, and National Association.

W. S. Van Horn, M. D., was born in Hancock County, Ohio, June 13, 1853. He attended the public school and was graduated from the Eclectic Medical Institute of Cincinnati, in 1883. He commenced the practice of medicine in Mt. Blanchard, where he remained for five years when he removed to Findlay, where he has remained until the present time. He is a member of the Northwestern Ohio Eclectic Medical as well as the State and National Association.

Allison M. Van Horn, M. D., was born in York County, Pa., July 31, 1882. He is a graduate of Findlay High School (May, 1900) and of the Eclectic Medical Institute of Cincinnati (1905). He has been engaged in the practice of medicine for over four years. He is a member of the Northwestern Ohio Eclectic and State Eclectic societies.

J. M. Guise, M. D., born in Findlay. Ohio, September 2, 1853. He was educated in the common and high schools and graduated from the Ohio Medical College of Cincinnati in 1887; has held the position of county physician, and has practiced in Findlay from the time of his graduation to the present writing.

Albert H. Linaweaver, M. D., was born in Springfield, Ohio, January 1, 1856. He attended the common and select schools and studied three years at Whittenberg College, Springfield, Ohio. He was graduated in medicine at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Chicago, Ill., April 21, 1896, and took a post graduate course in the Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat College in Chicago in 1899. He has practiced in Findlay since graduating.

R. B. Keeran, M. D., was born in Sandusky County, Ohio, on February 20th, 1853. Took the Common School education of the day and graduated at the Eclectic Medical Institute in Cincinnati in 1876. Practiced in Marshall, Ill., for ten years and since 1886 to the present time in Findlay, Ohio. He is a member of the district and State Eclectic Medical societies.

P. O. Guise, M. D., was born in Findlay, Ohio, August 18, 1851. Educated in the common and high schools of Findlay and graduated from the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Baltimore, Maryland, in 1882 and has practiced continuously in Findlay ever since his graduation. He has held the office of township clerk for four years and of township treasurer for two terms.

J. E. Powell, M. D., was born in Eagle Township, Hancock County, Ohio, on April 15, 1861. The day the first gun of the Civil War was fired at Fort Sumter. He was graduated at the College of Physicians and Surgeons at Baltimore, class of 1890; has practiced in Findlay since his graduation and has served Hancock County as coroner.

Mrs. Cornelius B. Kennedy, M. D., was born in Van Wert, Ohio, June 20, 1862. She was educated in the common school and high school of Warsaw, Indiana, and graduated in medicine from the Toledo Medical College, March 31, 1896. She served three terms as secretary of the Hancock County Medical Society of which she is an active member, as well as a member of the Northwestern, Ohio and Ohio State societies.

Earl J. Thomas, M. D., was born in Biglick Township, Hancock County, Ohio, October 7, 1882. He is a graduate of the Findlay High School and attended one year at the Ohio State University of Columbus. He is a medical graduate of the University of Michigan, at Ann Arbor, class of 1905. After serving a year as interne in the Ann Arbor Hospital he located in Findlay, Ohio, for the practice of his profession.

O. H. Saunders, M. D., was born in Benton Ridge, Hancock County, Ohio, March 22, 1864. He was graduated from the Ohio Medical College of Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1891. He is a member fo the Hancok County, State, and National Medical Association, and is clerk of the Board of Education.

M. M. Crothers, M. D., was born in Crawford County, Ohio, on February 8, 1845. He attended the common and high schools and read medicine in the office of A. E. Jenner, a descendant of the famous Dr. Jenner, the discover of vaccination. Dr. Crothers graduated from the Medical Department of Wooster at Cleveland, Ohio, February 28, 1872, and practiced at Sulphur Springs, the succeeding sixteen years, when he removed to Findlay, Ohio. He has been a member and president of the city council and an ex-member of the State Legislature.

Milton S. Williamson, M. D., was born in Seneca County, Ohio, on December 19, 1850, and was educated in the common and high schools of Findlay, Ohio, after which he attended Heidelberg College at Tiffin, Ohio. He attended and is a graduate of the Medical Department of the University of Wooster at Cleveland, Ohio, in the class of 1874; also took a post graduate course at Rush Medical College of Chicago, Ill., in 1882; was a member of U. S. Examining Board of Pensions for eight years, twice president of the Hancock County Medical Society and member of the Hancock County State and National Associations and Physician to the Infirmary. He has practiced at West Independence, Arcadia, Fostori, Alvada and Findlay, Ohio.

Huron S. Wilson, M. D., was born at Vanlue, Ohio, December 6, 1856. He was educated in the common schools, attended Starling Medical College at Columbus, Ohio, and graduated at the Kentucky School of Medicine, Louisville, Ky., in the class of 1885. He practiced his profession at Vanlue, Alvada, McKutchensville and Findlay, Ohio. Ex-coroner of Hancock County, member of Hancock County, Northwestern, Ohio and State Medical societies.

J. W. Zophi, M. D., was born in Jeffersonville, Sullivan County, New York, April 12, 1859. He attended the common and high schools and was a student at and graduate of the Medical Department of the University of Buffalo, N. Y., in the class of 1889, after which he served a term as interne in the Buffalo Hospital.

N. R. McLachlin, M. D., was born November 26, 1859, in Middlesex County, Ontario. He attended the common schools and was graduated from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, in 1878. He practiced in Cass City, Tuscola County, Mich., for eleven years, moving to Findlay, Ohio, in 1889. Dr. McLachlin is a member of the Board of U. S. Pension Examiners and of the Hancock County, Northwestern Ohio, State and National Medical societies. He is also an ex-coroner of Tuscola County, Mich.

John Charles Tritch, M. D., was born in Findlay, Ohio, September 25th, 1857. He at-

tended the city schools and was graduated from the Findlay High School in the class of 1874; entered the office of Doctor Wm. M. Detwiler, his uncle, and studied medicine there; attended the Homeopathic Hospital College at Cleveland and graduated in the class of 1877. He took post-graduate work in the New York Polyclinic in 1888, 1890, 1896 and 1903; also the New York Post Graduate in 1893; received the degree of A. M. from the Findlay College in 1896. Dr. Tritch is gynecologist to the Findlay Home and Hospital. He was a member of the City Board of Education for six years, and coroner of Hancock County from 1880 to 1884.

CHAPTER XII.

HANCOCK COUNTY SOCIETIES.

The Fraternal Lodges—The Odd Fellows—Masons—Elks—Tribe of Ben Hur—Daughters of America—Grand Army of the Republic—The W. C. T. U.—The Hancock County Agricultural Society.

HANCOCK LODGE NO. 73, I. O. O. F.

Hancock Lodge No. 73, I. O. O. F., of Findlay was instituted August 15, 1846, with the following charter members:

Abraham Younkin, tailor; Jacob Carr, a lawyer and dentist; Edson Goit, a lawyer and man of wealth, who built the first large building in town, where now stands Karg Bros. Meat Market; Abel Parker, a lawyer, father of Circuit Judge Robert Parker and J. H. Barr, a merchant. The institution was conducted by District Deputy Grand Master Henry W. Cronine, of Seneca Lodge, No. 35, of Tiffin, Ohio. He was assisted by Past Grand Richard Williams, Noble Grand George Knapp, Past Grands, Rollo Johnson and Wm. Beard of Seneca Lodge, No. 35, Columbus Lodge No. 9 and Huron Lodge No. 37, respectively.

After its institution, on December 4th and 13th, 1847, as appears in the Corporation Record of Hancock County (Vol. 1, Page 6), the lodge was incorporated under the laws then in force in the State by the holding of a special meeting for the purpose of the adoption and record of suitable resolutions, in which occurs the following in reference to its name: "Resolved that this society hereafter be known by the name of Hancock Lodge No. 73 of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows."

The installation services were held in the 2nd story of Jonathan Parker's carpenter shop, which was located on the rear of the lot where now stands the Patterson Block. After the institution of this lodge its existence in the community was a matter of much curiosity to those outside its portals. Why did they call themselves Odd Fellows? What terrlbie and awful ceremonies did they have? These men were objects of curiosity and perhaps some superstitious souls crossed themselves when an Odd Fellow appeared in the street. In those early days there existed a feeling of distrust of all secret societies, because they were misunderstood and misjudged. So prevalent was this feeling that Col. James Findlay, after whom our beautiful city was named, ran for Governor as the Anti Fraternity and Whig candidate. Nevertheless the order grew rapidly, not only in Hancock County,

but all over the country, and the practical application of the principles and precepts of Odd Fellowship did more than anything else to dispell this distrust of secret societies. Odd Fellowship contains the best elements and principles for the welfare and happiness of the human race the Supreme Ruler of the Universe ever made known. It is a high conception of the duties of one man toward another and its field is the world. It aims to unite all men, all nations, in the bond of Friendship and Fraternity, recognizing the Fatherhood of God and Brotherhood of Men in its progress towards the betterment of the human race.

After about two years it moved to the attic of what is now the Kerr Block then owned by John Van Eman. After five years it again moved, this time to the Henderson Block, where now stands the J. T. Adams Building. The lodge remained here until the Patterson Block was finished in 1866, when it took up its quarters in this building. Each time it moved into better and more convenient quarters as the lodge grew and prospered.

While in the Henderson Building it held its First Anniversary Celebration, which was in the year 1857. This was quite an event in its history. It was this year that J. T. Adams, J. K. Clark and John Rutherauff joined the order.

The lodge stayed in the Patterson Block until the year 1865, at which time under the supervision of brothers Chas. E. Niles, James T. Adams, Jacob Powel, G. C. Barnd and W. M. Dettwiler, all of whom are now dead, as a building committee, was purchased the north half of its present Temple site, on which it erected a 25x100 foot, three-story, cut stone front building, with business rooms and offices on the first and second floors, and lodge appartments on third floor. This building was the first in Findlay in which plate glass windows were used, and before which a Berea stone sidewalk was laid. And it was at the time by far the finest and most imposing business block in the then village, and remained one of the best until the date of its remodeling below mentioned.

In 1901, the lodge purchased the south half of its present building site from J. T. Adams, thus securing a business front of a width of fifty feet on the principal business square of the city, with a depth of two hundred feet. Its lodge suite, on the third floor, has been held sacred under its dedication to the purposes and use of Odd Fellowship, and no other order is allowed to lease or use it. It shares, however, the use of this floor with Findlay Rebekah Lodge No. 237, and Golden Rule Encampment No. 92. Hancock Lodge, it is to be noted, is the only lodge or fraternity in the city of Findlay, which owns the property in which it meets. It has at the time of the issuance of this history a membership of over four hundred.

Hancock Lodge has been represented in the Grand Lodge and Grand Encampment of Ohio by the fellowship Elective Grand Officers, viz: Hon. J. F. Burket, late Justice of the Supreme Court of Ohio, grand master, 1882-1883; F. B. Zay, grand master, 1888-1889; C. E. Niles, grand treasurer, (died in office), 1897-1908; L. A. Baldwin, grand patriarch, 18—18—.

Hancock Lodge had the honor of entertaining the Grand Lodge of Ohio during its

Session of 1875. It has furnished the representative to Grand Lodge a number of times, A. G. Fuller holding that office at present. All during its history it has included in its membership the leading men of all callings of the community and therefore the teachings of Friendship, Love and Truth instilled into the hearts of its members has been an uplifting influence in all walks in life.

During its existence it has paid in weekly benefits $18,000; to the widows and orphans fund in round numbers $9,000; for funeral benefits $5,750. The greater part of this has been paid since 1890; from its early days the nursing was done in alphabetical order by the members instead of a hired nurse as today. The greatest amount paid in one year was in 1905, when it paid out $1,704. It has paid to two brothers over $1,000 each. In a number of other cases it has paid out sums approximating $500. Not only are its members well cared for in distress but their families are objects of fraternal care. The lodge is now caring for several widows and has a number of orphans in the Springfield home.

There have been so far as can be ascertained 118 deaths in the lodge. One of its members, Parlee C. Tritch, has had a wonderful lodge record. He has been an active member of this lodge over 56 years and is proud to say he has never been on the sick list in all that time. Brother Tritch wears a Veteran Jewel for having been a member fifty years. This was a gift of the Brothers of Hancock Lodge.

The following old time veteran members have been active for over 40 years: Paul Bryan, J. W. Exline, Sr., John N. Kline, John Haley, C. Kraus, John Haley, Samuel Van Atta and Wm. France now living at Bucyrus, Ohio, and E. S. Kimber residing at Kansas City. The lodge is proud of these old time members, who laid the foundation for its present prosperity.

Probably the most celebrated event in the history of Odd Fellowship in Ohio was the laying of the Corner Stone of the present Court House in this County. This is the only instance that we can find record of where Odd Fellowship was placed in the front and given entire charge of such a celebration. The service used that day, August 11, 1884, by the Patriarchs Militant, who had charge of the service, was written especially for that occasion.

Hancock Lodge has been the Father of nearly every other Lodge of Odd Fellows in the County. From her membership have gone out brothers who have withdrawn to become charter members of these lodges. Always progressive there have been terms when much more work was done than during others. The first large class of candidates were initiated in 1867 when under H. B. Green as Noble Grand, 27 members were taken in.

Under Noble Grand E. B. Howell, in 1868, 19 candidates were received.

Under Noble Grand J. F. Burkett, in 1872, 28 candidates were received.

Under Noble Grand D. C. Fischer, in 1873, 22 candidates were received.

Under Noble Grand C. E. Niles, in 1885, 21 candidates were received.

Brother Niles brought into the lodge at least one candidate during every year of his membership.

Under Noble Grand J. S. Humphrey, in 1885, 24 were received.

Under Noble Grand R. E. Ellisin, in 1886, 17 members were received.

Under Noble Grand U. K. Stringfellow, in 1887, 22 were received.

Under Noble Grand J. W. Zellers, in 1888, 23 were received.

Under Noble Grand A. J. Burner, in 1889, 22 were received.

Under Noble Grand M. T. Burner, in 1890, 19 were received.

Under Noble Grand G. W. Yates, in 1891, 22 were received.

Under Noble Grand W. C. Nusser, in 1900, 20 were received.

Under Noble Grand J. S. Jones, in 1902, 26 were received.

Under Noble Grand C. C. Clark, in 1903, 29 were received.

Under Noble Grand P. J. Riemund, in 1905, 31 were received.

The class under Noble Grand Ed. Reimund, in 1906, of 34, speaks eloquently not only of the progress of the order but the interest manifested in its welfare by the membership, a large number of whom worked hard to get up this class, but of also the kind of timber it accepts out of which to make Odd Fellows.

Not only have large classes been taken in at times but a large majority have been young men. Our order has been called an old man's order. While this is not true of the order in general, especially it is not true of Hancock Lodge. However, we are very proud indeed of our old and faithful members, many of whom are even now in their old age its most regular attendants.

One brother, now deceased, who was member over fifty years and chaplain over thirty of that time, Rev. R. H. Hollyday, seldom missed a session of the lodge during his entire membership, which continued until the time of his death, October 24, 1905.

Odd Fellowship was the first Fraternity to provide women with an organization. The degree of Rebekah was founded in 1851. The Findlay Rebekah Lodge was founded September 22, 1888, with thirty-five charter members and now has over 150 and is one of the most progressive in the State of Ohio. One of its members, Miss Nora Kagey, has been honored with the presidency of the order in this state.

Hancock Lodge ranks one of the most progressive in the state and is noted for its benevolence and public spirit. Its degree team under the leadership of G. E. Dennison is second to none. It has been invited to appear before the Grand Lodge and is called upon for special degree work by many of the lodges in Northern Ohio.

FINDLAY LODGE, NO. 227, F. AND A. M.

In referring to the early history of Masonry in Findlay, we are met with the usual difficulty, in getting the first facts, in regard to events long past. The records say, that on January 16, 1852, a meeting was held in Odd Fellows Hall, with Abraham Youngkin as Worshipful Master, at which the dispensation for a lodge at Findlay was read in open lodge. There is no copy of the petition for the dispensation, nor of the dispensation itself extant. Presumably the names on the dispensation were the same as those on the charter. The names appearing on the charter are: Abraham Youngkin, Abel F. Parker, Ed. Parker, James M. Coffinberry, George Arnold, Adolphos Morse,

Eli S. Reed, David Patton, and Cloyse B. Wilson. At this first meeting Thomas McKee made application to become a member by demit. Committees were appointed on By-laws, procuring hall, furnishing hall, etc.

At the next meeting, January 24th, 1852, David Patton applied for membership by demit; a full corps of officers were elected, and a petition for degrees was received from John E. Rosette. The first degree was conferred upon John E. Rosette, William L. Henderson and Benjamin F. Sickles, February 26th, Brothers William L. Henderson and Benjamin F. Sickles received the Master Mason's degree March 10, 1853. The sum of the three degrees was $15.00. A charter was issued to the lodge, bearing the date of October 22, 1852, which still adorns the walls of the lodge room. Hon. A. P. Byall was initiated September 23rd, passed October 21st, and raised to the Master's degree, December 23rd, 1852, being the oldest member, receiving the degrees in this lodge now living. The election of officers under the charter, resulted in Abraham Younkin being elected Master; George W. Springer, Senior Warden; William L. Henderson, Junior Warden, and David Patton, Secretary.

The lodge was formally constituted, and its officers installed, by James A. Kellum, proxy for the Most Worshipful Grand Master, November 29th, 1852. The lodge held its meetings under the dispensation and also under the charter until the summer of 1855, in a frame building, standing on the lot at the northwest corner of Main and Sandusky Streets, then owned by Jonathan Parker, and now the site of J. S. Patterson and Son's dry goods store. Mr. Parker occupied the first floor as a carpenter and cabinet shop. It seems that the Odd Fellows also occupied the same room and a contract is on record of the agreement between these two societies and Jonathan Parker to plaster and finish off the room and pay a rental of twenty dollars a year for same.

In the summer of 1855, a room was secured in "Old White Corner," the building in which the Buckeye Bank is now located. During the year 1863, in the heat of the Civil War, the lodge again moved its quarters, this time to a room in the third story of what was then called the "Joint Stock Hotel building," but now the Glass Block. In 1878 it was moved to the third story of the George W. Kimmell block on the east side of Main Street now owned by William Moss, and in 1893 to the fourth floor of the Rawson block, not far distant, and from there, in 1908, to the fifth floor of the Adams block, corner of Main and Crawford Streets.

The lodge, in its fifty-seven years of its existence, has been presided over by thirty-two Masters, eighteen of whom are still on its rolls. Benjamin F. Kimmons has served the lodge as treasurer thirty-three years in succession, and David L. Grable has served the Lodge faithfully and diligently for the past twenty-two years, as secretary, and it is to him that the author is under obligation for the items of this sketch. The lodge is at present in a flourishing condition, with a membership of 278.

The present officers of the lodge are as follows (1909):

Alex. D. Robertson, Worshipful Master.
William D. E. Snyder, Senior Warden.
George W. Vernor, Junior Warden.
Benjamin F. Kimmons, Treasurer.
David L. Grable, Secretary.
George R. Williams, Senior Deacon.
Samuel I. Good, Junior Deacon.
J. Sterling Downey, Jat B. Holman, Stewards.

William M. Tait, John C. Firmin, John A. Sutton, Trustees.
John A. Gore, Tyler.
Pastmasters and years they served.
Abraham Youngkin, 1852, 1853, 1856.
George Springer, 1854.
Cloyse B. Wilson, 1855.
D. M. Stoughton, 1857, 1860, 1861.
John B. May, 1858, 1859.
W. W. Siddall, 1862, 1863.
Horace D. Ballard, 1864, 1865, 1866.
William Anderson, 1867, 1868.
Daniel B. Beardsley, 1869, 1870, 1871, 1888, 1889.
Milton B. Patterson, 1872, 1873.
Jacob M. Huber, 1874, 1875.
Benj. F. Kimmons, 1876.
Francis W. Firmin, 1877, 1878, 1879, 1883, 1887.
John Parker, 1880, 1890, 1891, 1892, 1893, 1894.
Anthony P. Schack, 1881.
Samuel B. Huffman, 1882.
David L. Grable, 1884, 1885, 1886.
William A. Lear, 1895.
John C. Firmin, 1896.
William S. Parker, 1897.
John W. Chamberlain, 1898.
William M. Tait, 1899.
William M. Martin, 1900.
Daniel Schneider, 1901.
Rufus E. Taylor, 1902.
John A. Sutton, 1903.
George F. Byall, 1904.
John M. Firmin, 1905.
Matthew Martinson, 1906.
Warren B. Keator, 1907.
John A. Gore, 1908.
Alex. D. Robertson, 1909.

FINDLAY CHAPTER, ROYAL ARCH MASONS.

Fifty-five years ago, or in 1854, a chapter of Royal Arch Masons was opened at Findlay, under a dispensation issued by Companion Cooper K. Watson, Deputy Grand High Priest, on March 22nd, 1854, James A. Kellum being appointed High Priest; Abraham Youngkin, King, and William L. Henderson, Scribe. Petitions were received at this meeting from Samuel Huber, D. M. Stoughton, E. M. May and Elijah Snyder. On motion said cases were declared emergent, and the committee were ordered to report forthwith. Reports were made, the ballot was passed and each was declared elected to the several degrees of the Chapter. At this time there seemed to be great interest taken in the Chapter, as the records show that there was a series of meetings held of a protracted nature, as for instance, from day to day, or daily for some time. Six Companions received the Royal Arch degree under the dispensation.

A Royal Arch Chapter was opened May 9th, 1854, and the same was not closed until October 9th of the same year, being "called off," "dispensed with," and adjourned in the interim. A charter was issued October 16th, 1854. Shortly after this boom there must have been a depression, or something to mar the harmony of the Chapter, for in October, 1856, only eleven members were returned, and the grand dues were only $8.50.

The Chapter continued its meetings until March, 1861, when owing to the excitement preceding the Civil War, no more meetings were held until March, 1866, when work was again resumed. With the restoration of peace, there occurred another boom, and they then held what our Methodist brethren would call a protracted effort. Meetings were held every day and night; receiving petitions, balloting upon them the same evening and at special meetings, in a free and easy sort of way, that would have been brought up standing by the Grand Officers in this year of grace.

On March 15th, 1866, H. D. Ballard, B. F.

Kimmons and L. M. Watt were made exalted Royal Arch Masons in the afternoon, and in the same evening D. B. Beardsley, J. M. Ruber and R. F. Bonham received the same degree. B. F. Kimmons is the only surviving member of that day's work, and so far as can be ascertained, only two of those who had received the degree prior to that time are living, and neither of them are members today

During the fifty-five years of the existence of this Chapter, it has had thirty presiding officers, of whom seventeen are still on its rolls. One of these presiding eight years in all. Since 1866, the Chapter has been meeting regularly, and at present is in a prosperous condition, having a membership in September, 1909, of two hundred and six.

FINDLAY COUNCIL.

Findlay Council of Royal and Select Masters was organized July 8th, under a dispensation issued June 19th, 1867, to Companions William E. Snyder, James Wilson, B. F. Kimmons, H. D. Ballard, D. B. Beardsley, J. M. Huber, William Anderson, M. B. Patterson and Isaac Bonham Companions Kimmons and Snyder are still members of the order, while Anderson lives in California. The others have long since passed within the veil, H. D. Ballard being the first to go, having died in July, 1872, thirty-eight years ago.

Companion James Wilson was the first presiding officer. Companion J. P. Woods, who previously practiced medicine in Williamstown, and afterwards became Professor in the Cleveland Medical College, was the first initiate.

On October 12th, 1867, the Council received its charter and was installed under it November 13, 1867. In its forty-two years of life, Findlay Council has had sixteen Masters, one serving nine years in succession. Only three have passed away, the remaining thirteen retain their membership in this Council. There has been a total of 171 members belonging to this council since its formation forty-two years ago, and 120 of them are yet on the rolls and in good standing. At this writing, September, 1909, there are 128 members.

COMMANDERY.

A dispensation for a Commandery of Knight Templars, at Findlay, was issued bearing date April 18, 1889. The first work under this dispensation was the conferring of the Red Cross on Theodore Totten, present postmaster, Robert A. McGeary, William R. McKee and William S. Parker. The first Knight Templar created was Sir James Wilson. Six Sir Knights were made under this dispensation. Application for a charter failed.

January 22nd, 1890, a new dispensation was granted to Sir Knights at Findlay, to form and open a Commandery, to be known as Findlay Commandery U. D. August 21, 1890, a charter was issued to this body and it was numbered 49. It has a steady growth, and now has one hundred and eighty members in good standing. Nineteen Sir Knights have been chosen as commanders of this body, all of whom are living (and except one demitted) and members of this Commandery.

FINDLAY CHAPTER, NO. 23, ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR.

This was organized under a dispensation January 26, 1894, and was chartered at the succeeding meeting of the Grand Chapter, October 10, 1894. It had a healthy, uniform growth and now numbers 127 members.

THE FINDLAY LODGE OF B. P. O. E.

The Findlay Lodge of B. P. O. Elks No. 75 was instituted in 1888. It started with a few good men, leading citizens of the town, but its growth at first was none too rapid. As time passed, however, new members were taken in and a vast debt was canceled and today it is one of the best lodges for the size of the city in this part of the country. The list of the first officers of the lodge is as follows: Exalted Ruler, J. C. Tritch; Esteemed Leading Knight, W. C. Neibling; Loyal Knight, Edward M. Camfield; Esteemed Lecturing Knight, Geo. L. Cusac; Secretary, S. B. Lippman; Treasurer, A. C. Hick; Tyler, A. B. Crozier; Chaplain, H. E. Hickox; Trustees, V. H. Coons, George Brake, J. H. Boger.

The majority of these original officers are still living and are among the most substantial and honored men of the community. There is at present a membership of over 400. The regular meetings of the lodge are held Thursday nights in their elegantly furnished quarters on the 3rd floor of the Jones Block. The personnel of the membership compares favorably with that of any other like organization in the city and all are endeavoring to exemplify the cardinal principles of the order, to-wit: "The faults of our brothers we write upon the sands, their virtues on the tablets of love and memory."

TRIBE OF BEN HUR.

Ben Hur Court No. 7, Tribe of Ben Hur, was organized in the city of Findlay by D. W. Gerard, now the Supreme Chief, and Dr. H. V. Beardsley, Past Supreme Chief, on the night of February 8th, 1895, with thirty charter members. Professor J. F. Smith, now superintendent of our city schools, was first Chief (presiding officer). Andrew Jackson Fisher was the first Scribe. Since the organization of this court it has made a steady growth and now leads all other fraternal societies in point of number, in the city, having a membership of over four hundred and seventy-eight.

The Tribe of Ben Hur is a social and insurance society, issuing protection in the way of life insurance to its members in amounts ranging from $250 to $3,000. Since its organization to the present time it has paid to the families of its members in this city, over $40,000.

The officers at this time are: Past Chief, I. N. Latchaw; Chief, N. W. Bright; Judge, Mrs. E. E. Wilson; Teacher, Mrs. H. V. Beardsley; Captain, J. F. Reynolds; Guide, Mrs. N. J. Miller; Keper of Inner Gate, Frank Bryan; Keeper of Outer Gate, W. S. Mays; Scribe, F. M. Barnhart; Keeper of Tribute, N. J. Miller; Resident Managing Deputy, Dr. H. V. Beardsley. They hold meetings every Tuesday night in Ben Hur Hall on North Main Street.

DAUGHTERS OF AMERICA.

The Daughters of America is a purely patriotic benevolent organization of native born Americans, existing for the protection of Americans and American institutions and the promulgation of a spirit of patriotism throughout the length and breadth of our country. Love of country and the protection of its institutions is the platform on which it stands. Its objects are to maintain

and promote the interests of Americans and shield them from the depressing effects of foreign competition. To assist Americans in obtaining employment. To encourage Americans in Business. To establish a sick and Funeral Fund. To maintain the public school system in the United States of America and to prevent sectarian interference therewith and uphold the reading of the Holy Bible therein. To oppose sectarian interference with State and National affairs. To assist in advancing the objects of the Jr. O. U. A. M.

Golden Rod Council No. 34. Daughters of America was instituted at Findlay, Ohio, in 1895, with twenty-nine charter members, as follows: L. E. Kennedy, Nelia B. Kennedy, C. R. Cameron, Donella Greenly, C. M. Ball, Mrs. J. S. Ball, Mrs. R. W. Bennet, A. T. Spitler, Mary Spitler, Clara Crall, Eliza Fellabaum, O. S. Ball, Lizzie Gibson, L. Walters, Sallie Keefer, J. C. Folk, S. S. Folk, Eva Ball, Bertha M. Ball, Mrs. H. M. Feefer, Lou Doll, S. A. Gressley, Julia A. Moyer, Lissa Loyd, J. A. Loyd, Katie O. Carpenter, Viola Stump, Julia Saltsgaver, A. M. Wilbur. The following are the present officers: J. O. C., Louisa Merick; A. J. P. C., Dora Yerger; C., Kate Carpenter; A. C., Kate Arnold; V. C., Anna Teal; A. V. C., Anna Barnhart; R. S., Ida Fletcher; F. S., Mary Aksam; Treas., Eliza Deihlman; Com., Margurite Binley; Ward., Mabel Werts; I. S., Mayme Shelden; O. S., L. E. Kennedy; Trustees, D. S. Davis, Mrs. Margaret E. Fassett, L. E. Kennedy; Pianist, Lillian Pease; Deputy, Ida Fletcher; Rep., Dora Yerger; Capt., Irene Thomas.

THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC.

The First Post.

The first Grand Army Post in Hancock County, and among the first in northwestern Ohio, was organized in Findlay in 1866. It began with a membership of about fifty. The records of that post have been lost and no exact dates can be given. From the memory of some of those who were charter members we learn that among its members were: James A. Bope, Fred Worsley, M. B. Walker, Edwin Parker, Thomas Scott, William Vance, Samuel C. Moore, Samuel Huber, Jacob Huber, C. P. Vail, Albert Parker, E. T. Dunn, John C. Martin, Theodore Totten, James Wilson, William Didway, Lafayette Kring, E. P. Sterner, Jacob Gassman, J. H. Goodwin, Martin L. Duttwiler, Frank Biggs, William Biggs, John Adams, Christ Galloway, William Hallowell, William DeHaven and William O'Harra.

Its commanders were the following persons in the order named: James A. Bope, William Vance, E. T. Dunn, M. B. Walker. This post surrendered its charter soon after the spring election in 1871.

STOKER POST.

In the early spring of 1881 a number of old soldiers concluded to organize a Grand Army Post and avoid the rocks upon which the former post had been wrecked.

On the 7th day of April, 1881, a meeting of the Union soldiers of the Civil War was called and they assembled in what was the Armory—rear of the second story of the Wheeler building, on the ground now occupied by the Jones Block, corner of Main

and Crawford streets. The following ex-soldiers signed the roll as charter members: William Mungen, J. M. Huber, J. A. Kimmell, C. P. Vail, Thomas B. Scott, J. A. Coons, J. W. Whitehurst, M. L. Duttwiler, R. F. Pollock, H. H. Metzler, M. L. Tisdale, Elisha Edwards, R. Timmerman, E. Parker, Joseph Gutzweiler, J. W. Davidson, S. Howard, C. E. Galloway, Rufus Fellers, L. H. Perry, David Joy, J. W. Davis, William Biggs, John Adams, T. C. Wertz, J. C. Cummins, J. M. Cherry, John Peet and William Didway.

The post was instituted by Colonel Lowenthal, S. M. O., of Toledo, Thursday evening, April 7th, 1881. On motion of Capt. John Adams the organization was named Stoker Post in honor of Cyrus and David Stoker, brothers, and late members of Company F, Twenty-first Ohio Volunteer Infantry, who were both killed in the battle of Stone River in January, 1862.

After some remarks by the comrades the following officers were elected: Post Commander, Martin L. Detweiller; Senior Vice Commander, R. F. Pollock; Junior Vice Commander, H. H. Metzler; Adjutant, J. M. Beelman; Quartermaster, C. E. Galloway; Surgeon, J. A. Kimmell; Chaplain, William Mungen; Officer of the Day, L. H. Perry; Officer of the Guard, William Biggs: Sergeant Major, T. C. Wertz; Quartermaster Sergeant, Rufus Fellers; Aid-de-camp, John Adams; Assistant Inspector, William Didway.

The following is a list of commanders from the organization to the present time: M. L. Dutweiler, April 7, '81 to Jan. 9, '82; M. L. Dutweiler, Jan. 9, '82 to Jan. 10, '83: H. H. Metzler, Jan. 10, '83 to Jan. 9, '84; James Wilson, Jan. 9, '84 to Jan. 14, '85; James Wilson, Jan. 14, '85 to Jan. 13, '86; George L. Arnold, Jan. 13, '98 to Jan. 12, '87; U. H. Grable, Jan. 12, '87 to Jan. 11, '88; James A. Bope, Jan.11, '88 to Jan. 5, '89; J. A. Thomas, Jan. 5, '89 to Jan. 8, '90; W. J. Morrison, Jan. 8, '90 to Jan. 9, '91; W. J. Morrison, Jan. 9, '91 to Jan. 6, '92; N. M. Adams, Jan. 6, '90 to Jan. 4, '93; Theodore Totten, Jan. 4, '93 to Jan. 3, '94; J. T. Bolton, Jan. 3, '94 to Jan. 9, '95; Solomon Funk, Jan. 9, '95 to Jan. 1, '96; B. L. Byal, Jan. 1, '96 to Jan. 6, '97; C. C. Clark, Jan. 6, '97 to Jan. 12, '98; M. D. Hewitt, Jan. 12, '98 to Jan. 11, '99; W. H. Werner, Jan. 11, '99 to Jan. 3, 1900; W. G. Bond, Jan. 3, 1900 to Jan. 2, '01; J. P. Woods, Jan. 2, '01 to Jan. 1, '02; M. L. Tisdale, Jan. 1, '02 to Jan. 7, '03; E. T. Dunn, Jan. 7, '03 to Jan. 14, '04; E. T. Dunn, Jan. 14, '04 to Jan. 11, '05; T. T. Dunn, Jan. 11, '05 to Jan. 10, '06; E. T. Dunn, Jan. '06 to Jan. 2, '07; E. T. Dunn, Jan. 2, '07 to Jan. '08; I. B. Arnold, Jan. '08 to Jan. '09; E. T. Dunn, Jan. '09 to Jan. '10.

The membership at this date (Aug 6, '09), is two hunderd and nine. The Post is well attended and is in flourishing condition. The most notable event in the history of the Post was the securing and holding of the department encampment in 1900. A detailed account of this may be found on the Post records. It was by far the best arranged, best equipped, best managed and most satisfactory department encampment held in Ohio to that date.

THE W. C. T. U.

The Woman's Christian Temperance Union is the outgrowth of the "Women's Crusade," a remarkable uprising of the

women against the liquor traffic, which began in Hillsboro, Ohio, Dec. 23, 1873, and spread throughout Ohio and Pennsylvania. The methods of the movement were the holding of prayer-meetings in the churches, from which went forth "Praying Bands" to the saloons, where they read the Bible, sang hymns and prayed. In Hancock County Mrs. S. A. Strother lead the band of women who met in the old Methodist Church and marched down the street singing hymns and even entering the saloons, kneeling in prayer on the sawdust covered floors. In some instances the saloon-keepers agreed to close their places of business and poured out their stock of liquor.

The organization resulting from the Crusade was first known as the Ladies' Temperance League of Hancock County. The first president of the League was Mrs. M. C. Whitely; the first chairman, Mrs. S. A. Strother; first corresponding secretary, Mrs. Chas. E. Niles; recording secretary, Mrs. Squire Carlin; treasurer, Mrs. Caroline Gage. Mrs. Jones, wife of the Methodist minister, was the first president of the Findlay League. The first local "Women's Christian Temperance Union" was founded in Fredonia, N. Y., in Dec. 1873. The first State Union was founded in Ohio in 1874.

Since that time the organization has spread until today the White Ribbon encircles the globe in fifty-two countries and its influence has been widely felt in legislatures and in elections in which prohibitory laws have been voted upon. Notably the grand victory of the Temperance forces at the polls on November 16, 1908, in which the county gave the grand majority of nearly 2,000 votes in favor of decency and public morality, was due in large measure to the ceaseless and untiring labors of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union.

In 1898 the Women's Christian Temperance Union published a paper which was called "The Union," this contained much interesting temperance news, and was ably edited. At that time Mrs. S. A. Strother was President of the Hancock County Union and was instrumental in bringing many noted speakers to Findlay, among whom were Francis Murphy, of pledge-signing fame, Miss Francis Willard, Miss Yeomans, Mrs. Mary Woodbridge's Mattie McClellan Brown, Mrs. Mary A. Livermore, Mrs. Tathrop, Mary Hunt, author of Scientific Temperance Instruction in the Schools. Gov. St. John, John G. Wooley, John B. Gough, and others. The meetings were then held in the old Court House on Sunday afternoons and were largely attended by both men and women, among the early members were the following: Mrs. M. C. Whitley, Mrs. Sarah Strother, Mrs. Charles Niles, Mrs. M. Y. Detwiler, Mrs. M. B. Porch, Mrs. Cordelia Spathe, Mrs. S. H. Darst, Mrs. Phil Morrison, Mrs. Rice, Mrs. Hill, Mrs. J. W. Danelson, Mrs. Julia Rockwell, Mrs. Delilah Robinson, Mrs. Mary Robinson, Mrs. William Vance, Miss Mary Reddick, Mrs. John Meeks, Mrs. E. Barnd, Mrs. R. Sheets, Mrs. G. G. Mosher and Miss Jenie Sours.

A loyal Temperance Legion had been organized by Mrs. Julia Rockwell and held their meetings in the old White Corner.

Among the things done by the Woman's Christian Temperance Union was the obtaining of a ten o'clock closing ordinance, a curfew law, a law against obscene pictures

on bill boards, etc. The establishment of a reading room, etc.

About fifteen years ago a Rescue Home, called The Door of Hope, was established on West Front St. This was closed not long after through lack of interest and lack of funds.

In those early years the Woman's Christian Temperance Union was not the popular organization that it is today, but the noble women labored in their efforts to uplift and better humanity, undeterred by the slights and insults which they not infrequently received.

There are forty-four distinct departments of work connected with the organization, which is thoroughly systematized, the same principle and methods generally prevailing from the local to the World's Union, a department of Peace and Inter-national Arbitration, co-operates with all the other peace societies of the world. There is also a department of Mercy, which opposes vivisection and inculcates kindness to all sentient beings. The requisites for admission to the Union are payment of annual dues and signing of the pledge.

HANCOCK COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

On the 30th day of August, 1851, a number of farmers and friends of agriculture congregated at the Court House and after discussing the project of organizing a society, adjourned until the first Saturday in October, at which time an organization was effected. The first fair was held on October 15, 1852, on rented grounds north of the river, on what was known as the Brunner brickyard.

On February 9, 1859, eight acres of land in East Findlay lying in the northeast corner of Blanchard Street and Blanchard Road, was purchased of J. H. Williamson for the consideration of $800. The first fair on the new ground was held Oct. 5, 6, and 7, 1859.

May 20, 1868, the old fair ground was sold to Samuel Hoxter for $1,750 and a new site purchased of Timothy Russell and John Powell for $3,000. This new location was situated on South Main Street about one mile south of Sandusky Street and comprised of 29.40 acres.

The first fair was held on the newly purchased grounds Oct. 1, 2 and 3, 1868.

On the 11th day of June, 1890, the county commissioners sold the beautiful grove on South Main Street to O. A. Ballard, A. H. Balsley, Geo. Cusac, F. H. Clessner, Adam Fulhart and Lemuel McManness for $26,500. These beautiful grounds, comprising a portion of the east half of the southeast quarter and part of the west half of the southeast quarter of Sec. 24, Township one North, Range 10 east, was one of the most beautiful in the State and on these grounds the Agricultural Society had many fairs successful, both financially and socially. But $26,500 was a tempting morsel to the county and the same was accordingly sold.

July 6, 1891, the county commissioners purchased the north part of the northeast quarter of Sec. 36, Township 1 north, Range 10 east, of J. G. Hull for $10,500. This tract is situated about one mile farther south than the old grounds and consists of a large farm of 70 acres having sold 6.30 acres August 31, 1891 to Theodore Gibson for $925.57.

After the new fair grounds were paid for, the balance of the sale money was used in improving the grounds and not only was the amount, $15,925.57, used in improvements, but

one-fourth of a mill of a blanket tax was levied over the entire county in 1893 to help replenish the funds of the agricultural society; besides the county commissioners set aside various amounts at divers times from the dog fund to help along the good cause.

From the time of taking possession of the new grounds in 1891 the society have held a fair annually with general good success in their exhibitions of live stock, grains, fruits and vegetables, implements and buggies and carriages, poultry, and produce of the farm and garden in general, together with articles of domestic manufacture and merchandise.

A good race track was constructed and the speeding was a source of enjoyment to many of our citizens. Large crowds met from all parts of the county and exchanged business views and social courtesies, thus affording an opportunity to our farmers to not only become better acquainted with each other but to improve their knowledge of the ancient and honorable vocation of farming and stock-raising, and while it afforded them and their families a day of outing and annual picnic, as it were, they were vastly profited and pleasantly entertained.

The last exhibit—that of 1909—was considered the best on the present grounds, both in attendance and display of articles, and the board will be able to pay all their premiums with a balance remaining in the treasury, notwithstanding more money was expended in premiums than was ever before paid out in any previous fair held in Hancock County.

The present officers of the Association are: President, Marion Bell; vice-president, Theodore Powell; treasurer, J. M. Reed; secretary, R. V. Kennedy. The bounding success of this year's fair was owing to the indomitable energy of the above mentioned gentlemen, and especially to the incessant care and labor of the secretary, Mr. Kennedy.

CHAPTER XIII.

CHURCH HISTORY.

The Pioneer Preacher—Hardships Endured—Small Salaries—Progress of the Various Denominations in Hancock County—Churches of Findlay and Hancock County.

When the first circuit rider lifted up his voice in this region, exhorting all to "flee from the wrath to come," this region was still a wilderness. The sweet and sacred story of the cross was told and re-told beneath the sturdy oaks of the forest, and the four-footed denizens of the wild paused and listened to the first hymns that soared heavenward from the lips of the little band of worshippers. The scented groves of that day were truly "God's first temples."

One of the first, if not the first minister to enter the forest of Ohio was Charles Frederick Post, a Moravian missionary, a calm, simple-hearted and intrepid man. He was sent into Ohio after the defeat of Braddock to preach the gospel, as well as to win the Indians over to the cause of the English; and he zealously did both. He was assisted in his labors by the celebrated Heckenwelder, and afterward by David Zeisberger, another devoted servant of God, and the three founded the town of Gnadenhutten, which was afterward destroyed by a lot of fanatical white settlers and its Indian converts massacred.

It was not until after the close of the Revolutionary War that the tide of pioneer preaching reached the real valley of the Ohio. It swept northward from Kentucky, headed by the good, old itinerant, who rode from settlement to settlement with Bible and saddlebags, preaching wherever he could find a congregation. He did as much to civilize the wilderness as those who wielded the axe and built towns where naught but the unbroken forest had been.

Strong and powerful men were the backwoods preachers and their mentality was equal to their physical strength. They knew no fear, but set up the altar of the Most High God in the most remote localities, undaunted by adverse circumstances and surrounded by dangers seen and unseen. For the ministry of the church of the wilderness assumed the position and responsibility of their calling under the confident belief that each man of them was specially called and sent forth by the Holy Spirit of peace and power as the ambassador of Christ.

The office of the backwoods preacher was no sinecure. His field of labor was the world. His salary rarely exceeded seventy dollars per year. Nothing more was allowed a man with a wife than without one, for it was understood by those of the old church that a preacher had

no business with a wife and that he was a great deal better without. They came to the wilderness to face perils, want, weariness, unkindness, cold and hunger. The bare earth in winter and summer was three-fourths of the time their bed, a saddle their pillow and the sky their coverlet.

They studied the hymnbook nearly as devotedly and constantly as the Bible, and with these two they had an arsenal from which they could bring forth weapons adapted to every emergency. When some obstreperous sinner disturbed their meetings they strode down from the backwoods pulpit and ejected the offender by main force, after which the sermon was resumed as if nothing had happened.

These pioneer men of God not only knew the Bible, but they knew other books as well. Young and Milton were their intimate companions. Miltonic descriptions of perdition abounded in their discourses, and the judgment, with all the solemn array of the Last Assize was vividly depicted by them. Their rather topographical descriptions of the good and bad worlds were received with favor by their audiences. The earnest and strenuous lives of the settlers, beset with necessities and filled with the struggle to supply them, demanded strong religious nourishment, and these simple-hearted, firmly believing crusaders of the wilderness were just the men to give it to them.

Between these heroic men of different denominations there was for some time much antagonism. Thy were too earnest to make light of even the least jot or tittle of their respective creeds, and their earnestness resulted in much pugnacious rivalry. They were great controversialists and there was a resounding din about Baptism and Pedo-Baptism, Free Grace and Predestination, Falling from Grace, and the Perseverance of the saints; but at no time did the pioneer preachers forget the holiness of their mission.

The true worth of the pioneer preacher cannot be computed. He did a great work among the early settlements through all this region. He builded up little congregations which in time grew into strong, light-spreading churches. He visited the sick, comforted the mourner, prayed with the dying, and often read the burial service to the howl of the predatory wolf. He appeared as an angel of light to the little family around the pioneer hearth. And when his sacred work was ended he "folded the drapery of his couch around him" and, secure in the great reward which was to be his, bowed to the will of God and passed from the stage of action.

While now nearly every denomination and sect have representatives in Hancock County, in the early days, they were principally Methodist, Presbyterian, Baptist and Lutheran. Now all of the different denominations, both in town and country, have comfortable and in most instances even beautiful houses of worship, far different from the hewed log meeting houses of former days. Even the churches in the small towns and country have their accessory and auxiliary societies and are fully up to the times in all that pertains to the conduct of a well regulated society.

As early as 1832, the Methodists began to hold regular meetings in the county, and this denomination is still in the ascendancy as to numbers and influence. The first church in Hancock County was organized at the home of John Dukes in Blanchard Township, and a church built in 1831, which is still known as "The Duke's Church." The first preacher in

Hancock County was James Gilruth, who came to Findlay in 1822. Next in order was the Presbyterian Church, the first preacher of which was the Rev. Barr, who came in 1829, and organized a bible society, with Wilson Vance, Edwin S. Jones and John C. Wickham as directors.

The Lutheran Church was the third to permanently locate in this county, beginning regular services in 1839, but not having permanent organization until 1846.

St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church was organized in 1851, and built a small frame church on the corner of West Hardin and Cory Streets, although occasional services had been held here since 1840. Late in 1866 the building, together with the parish school building adjoining, burned down, and, as the membership had increased largely, more ground was needed. Louis Adams, then one of our most substantial citizens, kindly donated the present site on West Main Cross Street, together with half the cost of the sweet sounding bell now in the tower of the church building.

The present building was completed in 1867, though it has been much improved and enlarged since then. The parochial schools are located just west of the church and consist of a very permanent building of six rooms and a large hall occupying the entire third story, where entertainments are often given. These schools are presided over by a competent corps of Sister teachers. The Roman Catholic church in Findlay is the only one in Hancock County.

The German Evangelical Lutheran Church, was organized in 1858, and built their church edifice on West Front Street, which they first occupied about 1863. They have a very flourishing society of our best German citizens, which has been largely increased by the strenuous effort of the present pastor, the Rev. William G. Dressler.

The United Brethren Church of Findlay was organized in 1853. They erected a small brick building on West Crawford Street, in 1855, but have been prosperous, and at present occupy a modern edifice on West Hardin Street.

The First Baptist Church was organized in 1857, but did not build a church until about 1888-9; there were no services held for several years; they now have a comfortable building on East Lima Street.

The Trinity Episcopal Church was organized in 1881, and at once built a handsome though moderate structure on West Hardin Street opposite the United Brethren Church.

The Church of Christ, better known as Disciples, organized in 1884 and built a very commodious structure on corner of North Main and Filmore Streets. They have a large membership and are very lively workers in the cause in which they place their faith.

The Evangelical Association was organized in 1870, with Rev. E. B. Crouse in charge, and a brick building erected on East Sandusky Street. Later a split occurring in the general church, extended to Findlay, and caused the building of another church on West Sandusky Street. The dispute seemed to be between two of the most prominent elders of the society and extended down to the membership.

The Church of God have had organizations in the county since 1848, but they did not grow very strong numerically until quite a late date, getting their main impetus from the location of their college here in 1881, which greatly increased the interest in that organization. The First Church of God on West Front Street is a strong organization, and they have a very

commodious as well as handsome building. The College church meets in the chapel of the college and is usually presided over by the president of the college or some of the faculty.

The Third M. E. Church, in the Reck Addition, was dedicated on July 22nd, 1889.

FIRST M. E. CHURCH.

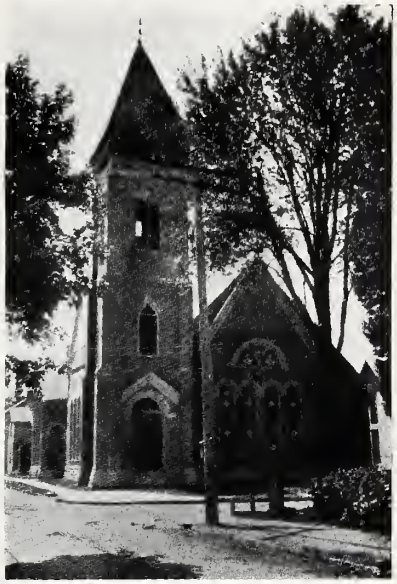
In 1829 Adam Poe, a presiding elder from the Wyandot Mission at Upper Sandusky, came one Saturday evening, to the little village called Ft. Findlay and announced that he would preach the next morning in the school house. The villagers came to hear him. Other missionaries came from Upper Sandusky and in three years a separate mission was established, with seventeen members, seven of whom were named Baker. By 1836 Fort Findlay had become the center of Findlay circuit with Rev. H. Whitman, preacher in charge, and Rev. G. W. Breckenridge, assistant. A church was built on East Main Cross Street, at a cost of $700.00, and later, a parsonage on the same lot. In 1850, at its own request, the society was made a station, and Rev. W. S. Lunt appointed pastor. During this year a new brick structure was built on the north end of the lot now occupied by the present structure, but on account of a deficiency in the foundation, the walls cracked and it was considered unsafe. The membership increased so rapidly that in ten years an agitation began for the erection of an adequate building.

In spite of mercenary hindrances, because of the war, $1,500.00 was subscribed, and in 1866, under Rev. J. W. Wykes, pastor, the corner stone of the third building was laid. Funds increased marvelously till at its completion, while Rev. Isaac Newton was pastor, Findlay boasted of a very fine building valued at $33,000.00, a great part of the debt of which was paid during the pastorate of Rev. P. P. Pope. The church now entered upon a time of great prosperity. After the extension of the time limit from two to three years, four pastors remained the full three years each. When Rev. A. J. Fish was pastor, came the natural gas boom which increased the population of the town from five to eighteen thousand. A great number of Methodist families came to Findlay at this period, the outcome of which was the establishment and building of the Howard M. E. Church on Cherry Street at a cost of about $8,000.00. Also a lot was purchased by the First M. E. Church on West Sandusky Street, and a commodious parsonage was built. In 1900 a fire occurred in the First M. E. Church building, rendering it untenable and the congregation decided to take it down and rebuild.

Under the administration of the Rev. C. R. Havighurst, who remained with the congregation for a period of eight years—the longest in the history of the church—the new and beautiful edifice was built and dedicated December 7, 1902, at a cost of about $75,000.00. The structure is of Craig sandstone, and is one of the most attractive and impressive church buildings in the conference. Under the suggestion and management of the present pastor, Rev. G. B. Wiltsie, the first Sunday in June, 1909, was devoted to the celebration of the eightieth anniversary of Methodism in Findlay. All the former pastors living were invited, many of whom gladly returned and noted with interest the splendid prosperity of the church, both financially and spiritually.

Prior to 1850 the church was served by missionaries and circuit preachers, since then the following have been pastors:

FIRST M. E. CHURCH, FINDLAY



CHURCH OF GOD, FINDLAY

CATHOLIC CHURCH, FINDLAY

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, FINDLAY

W. S. Lunt, J. A. Kellum, G. Gray, J. S. Holmes, T. Parker, L. B. Gurley, G. Lease, J. S. Kalb, J. Wykes, Isaac Newton, O. Kennedy, Wm. Jones, I. R. Henderson, P. P. Pope, J. F. Davies, E. D. Whitlock, W. A. Yingling, S. L. Beiler, A. J. Fish, L. E. Prentiss, C. R. Havighurst, J. M. Avann, W. G. Waters, H. C. C. Jamisen, C. O. Crist, G. B. Wiltsie

The present number of communicants of this church is about 775, and the enrollment of the Sabbath school is about 900.

HOWARD METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF FINDLAY.

The development of Findlay in "Boom days" led to the building of the Howard Church. Methodism had been established in Findlay for half a century when the growth both of the city and of the First Methodist Church made a new church seem advisable. Under the pastorate of Dr. A. J. Fish at the First Church the first steps were taken by securing two lots in Cherry Street near Clinton, which were held while money was raised for the building The corner stone was laid in December, 1887, and the building was soon enclosed. The church was dedicated July 16, 1888, by Dr. J. W. Hamilton of Boston, now a bishop in the Methodist Church. The following pastors have served the church: Dr. H. C. Jameson, '88; Dr. N. B. C. Love, '89, '90, '91; Dr. C. W. Taneyhill, '92, '93; Rev. S. L. Boyers, '94, '95; Rev. J. W. Holland, '96; Rev. M. C. Howley, '97, '98, '99; Rev. Peter Biggs, 1900, '01, '02; Rev. J. Baumgardner, '03 to '07; Dr. Merrick E. Ketchem, '09, present pastor.

During the pastorate of Rev. S. L. Boyers the debt on the building was paid off. During the pastorate of Rev. J. Baumgardner a parsonage was secured adjoining the church. The church had a steady growth and at the present time (1909) has 350 members with a Sunday School of about 300 enrollment. The Epworth League has some 75 members. The membership is loyal and earnest in service and the church is accomplishing splendid results.

THE FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, FINDLAY.

The First Church of Christ at Findlay was organized December 14, 1884, by W. J. Lhamon then of Kenton. Previous to this U. M. Browder, M. Riddle, Alanson Wilcox, W. J. Lhamon and perhaps others preached occasional sermons. W. J. Lhamon held a meeting of several days in December, 1884, which resulted in the organization of the church. The Nineteenth District of the Ohio Christian Missionary Society helped to bear the expenses of the meeting. The following were the charter members of the new church: A. A. Dillinger, Katharine Brogee, Henry C. Lanning, Agness Shank, Hannah Ross, Mary E. McFarland, Lizzie Pendleton, Elizabeth Henry, Rhoda Lanning, Mary A. Shank, Lavina Hartman, Fannie Dillinger, Ella Shank, May Shank, Orpha L. Humason, Margaret Thomas, Cordeli Shank, Kate M. Kagy, Sophia Kibler, Susan Powell, Lavina Shank, John C. Shank, John S. McFarland, Metta Phifer, Hannah Corwin, Sophrona Bacher, Adaline D'Brant, Henry Shank, Jr. The first meetings were held in the German Reform Church on East Main Cross Street. In 1887 a substantial brick veneer building was erected at the corner of North Main and Fillmore Streets. It seats four hundred. A frame structure for Sunday use has since been added. The house was dedicated in October, 1887, by F. M. Rains, secretary of

the Foreign Christian Missionary Society. At the organization the following persons were made a committee of management till officers could be chosen: Henry C. Lanning, Henry Shank, Jr., A. A. Dillinger, Kate M. Kagy, Hannah Ross, and Orpha Humason. The first two or three years the church had no resident pastor but was ministered to occasionally by W. J. Lhamon of Kenton, Dr. S. M. Cook, then of Bays, and others. J. T. H. Stewart was the first settled minister. The house was built during his ministry. The church has had twelve resident pastors, J. T. H. Stewart, 1887 to July 29, 1888; A. B. Moore, August 5, 1888 to July 1, 1889; T. A. Cooper, July 14, 1889 to July 5, 1891; B. J. Sawyer, October 6, 1891 to February 2, 1892; P. J. Rice, June 1, 1892 to December 24, 1893; Eugene Brooks, January 1, 1894 to September 1, 1896; G. W. Weimer, October 6, 1896 to October 1, 1897; J. W. Adams, November 1, 1897 to November 1, 1898; A. M. Growden, January 1, 1899 to April 15, 1903; J. F. Stone, July 12, 1903 to July 12, 1904; C. H. Bass, October 1, 1904 to October 1, 1907; and the present incumbent, John Mullen, whose ministry began November 10, 1907. The church has made splendid progress. Hundreds have been added to the membership but owing to the unsettled condition of our city's population in the past there have been heavy losses by removal. The present membership is four hundred and fifty. The Sunday School enrolls about four hundred. The Y. P. S. C. E. has sixty members and the Christian Women's Board of Missions Auxiliary nearly fifty. The church supports a missionary, D. O. Cunnigham, in India. One hundred and sixty-four members have been received into the church the past twenty months. E. C. Taylor is chairman of the official board. Dr. E. C. Miller is superintendent of the Sunday School.

The Official Board is composed of Dr. E. C. Miller, T. M. Sherman, G. N. Abbott, John Mullen, Elders; E. C. Taylor, P. S. Latchaw, H. C. Miley, J. W. Irwin, W. E. Deitzel, J. Z. Chase, G. R. Miller, F. L. Powell, Deacons.

UNITED BRETHREN IN CHRIST.

The Church of the United Brethren in Christ, which is the oldest denomination of purely American origin, began its existence about 1768, when Rev. Martin Boehm was preaching to a large congregation assembled in Isaac Long's barn in Lancaster County, Pa. He preached with great power, and Rev. William Otterbein being in the congregation, greatly delighted, stepped forward at the conclusion of the sermon, and embracing Boehm, exclaimed: "Wir sind brueder,"—"We are brethren," which gave rise to the name of the denomination. The work grew, converts were organized into classes, finally the church was organized forming this new denomination with its first formal Conference in Rev. William Otterbein's parsonage, in Baltimore, in 1789. Its government is much like the government of the United States of America. Its ecclesiastical bodies are General, Annual and Quarterly Conferences.

As to the history of the local church of The United Brethren in Christ, the records accessible are very meager. Prior to 1854, religious services were occasionally held by United Brethren people, in a little brick schoolhouse on West Front Street. The

following trustees, Henry Hartman, Nimrod Bright, Joel Pendleton, Jesse Wheeler and J. T. Crites, raised funds by subscription, and early in 1854, Lot 78, corner of West and Crawford Streets, was purchased and a brick church was completed in 1855, under the direction of Rev. Chester Briggs, pastor. This property was sold in 1887, and a lot was purchased on the corner of West Hardin and South Cory Streets, where the present church edifice was erected and first occupied in 1889 under the pastoral care of Rev. G. L. Bender with the following Board of Trustees: D. R. Stoker, R. C. Bennett, L. C. Clark, G. A. Carpenter and Isaac Hershey.

The following ministers served the church beginning with the year 1854:

Reverends Chester Briggs, Michael Long, William Mathers, —— Case, —— Dunn, Percy Moore, John French, Alvin Rose, Reuben French, William Glancy, T. J. Harbaugh, T. D. Ingle, James Long, M. Shestler, A. W. Holden, G. P. Macklin, E. A. Starkey, J. Kirk, Isaac Crouse, S. H. Radebaugh, 1885-87; G. L. Bender, 1887-90; E. B. Maurer, 1890-91; P. N. Gardner, 1891-92; J. H. Arnold, 1892-96; C. N. Crabbs, 1896-99; C. B. Fletcher, 1899-01; A. M. Smith, 1901-04; J. W. Lilly, 1904-05; A. W. Ballinger, H. H. Rangeler, 1905-06; O. F. Laughbaum, 1906-09.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF FINDLAY.

This church was organized December 21, 1830, the following being the charter members: William Taylor, Margaret Taylor, Phoebe Henderson, Asa Lake, Mrs. Chloe Lake, Ebenezer Wilson, William Cowan, Sarah Cowan, Mary Gibson, Wilson Vance and Sarah Vance. A part of the minutes of the first meeting are worthy of a place in this sketch. The following resolutions were then offered and unanimously adopted:

First, In order to obtain and enjoy Christian fellowship and communion and to enjoy the means of grace, and to have the Word and ordinances of the Gospel administered in a regular and orderly manner for our spiritual nourishment and gowth in grace and for the general promotion and advancement of the cause of the Redeemer.

Secondly, Resolved: That we unite as a Church of the Lord Jesus Christ in connection with the Presbyterian Church of the General Assembly, mutually engaging to be subject to one another in the Lord, to walk together according to the Gospel, and to study the things that make for peace and the things whereby we may edify one another.

At the same meeting William Cowan and Ebenezer Wilson were elected Ruling Elders. This was the first Presbyterian Church organized in this part of Ohio. The first home of worship was erected in 1836 at the corner of East Crawford and Mechanic Streets and used for twenty-one years. The next building was erected in 1857 at the corner of South Main and East Hardin Streets (now a part of the Donnell Block) and was dedicated December 27th of the same year.

The corner stone of our present church home was laid September 25, 1900, and the completed edifice was dedicated to the service of God, September 29, 1901.

The following is a list of pastors and the term of office: Rev. Peter Monfort, 1830-1833; Rev. Thomas Clark, 1833-1834; Rev.

Peter Monfort, 1834-1835; Rev. George Van Eman, 1835-1841; Rev. Simon Peck, 1841-1842; Rev. R. H. Holliday, 1842-1854; Rev. John A. Meeks, 1855-1865; Rev. J. M. Cross, 1865-1869; Rev. A. B. Fields, 1869-1872; Rev. Eban Muse, 1872-1875; Rev. R. R. Sutherland, 1876-1881; Rev. John C. Watt, 1881-1885; Rev. Joshua R. Mitchell, 1885-1898; Rev. John Montgomery, 1899-1906; Rev. Lester S. Boyce, 1907——.

The following is a list of the elders and date of election: William Cowan, December, 1830; Ebenezer Wilson, December, 1830; Samuel Moorhead, November, 1835; John Ewing, November, 1835; William Taylor, August, 1837; Frederick Henderson, August, 1837; John Burns, August, 1837; Paul Sours, November, 1844; Milton Gray, October, 1865; Emanuel Miller, October, 1865; Phillip D. Bigelow, 1866; Joseph S. Patterson, 1866; W. A. Ward, December, 1868; Presley N. Lyle, April, 1870; Isaac Davis, April, 1870; Henry Byal, April, 1870; Jesse Guise, April, 1870; George L. Arnold, January, 1886; John Shuck, January, 1886; Robert M. Abbott, December, 1888; John Q. Codding, December, 1888; David B. Cratty, December, 1888; Charles H. Lambie, November, 1897; Silas E. Hurin, November, 1897; William H. Loy, June, 1905; Jeston Warner, June, 1905.

Present Organization: Pastor, Rev. Lester S. Boyce, The Manse, 203 East Sandusky St.

Elders: Joseph S. Patterson, George L. Arnold, John Schuck, John Q. Codding, Clerk, David B. Cratty, Silas E. Hurin, William L. Loy, Jeston D. Warner.

Board of Trustees: George L. Arnold, Charles W. Patterson, Leonard C. Glessner, William S. Bish, Harmon McEowen, Ephraim H. Adams.

Financial Secretary, Harmon McEowen. Congregational Clerk, Ross Wetherald. Treasurer, William H. Loy. Choir Leader, Harrold A. Wakefield. Organist, Edna V. Bigelow. Sexton, Jonathan J. Miller, 115 West Lincoln St. Church membership, 510. Sunday School enrollment, 327.

FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, FINDLAY.

This congregation is the result of Home Missionary effort by the denomination at large. The first steps toward the organization of a United Presbyterian Church in this place were taken by Rev. J. C. Roe, of Kenton, O. The organization was effected March 31, 1890. Of the charter members only one remains in the present membership of the church, Miss Elizabeth Allison. In all a large number of members have been received. Losses by death and removal leave the present roll of members at about one hundred.

The congregation possesses valuable church property located on the corner of West Sandusky and West Streets. The lecture room, fully equipped with class rooms for Sabbath school work, was erected soon after the congregation was organized. The auditorium, a beautiful structure made of cement blocks, was completed in 1908. The property includes a commodious and modern parsonage, occupied as the pastor's residence. The parsonage stands on the same lot with the church building. The property is located in an attractive part of the city and is free of debt. The congregation embraces the full complement of sub-

sidiary organizations and carries on many activities. Special attention is given to Sabbath School work, and every effort is put forth to maintain a school of the highest efficiency.

The following ministers have served the congregation in the capacity of stated supply: J. P. Sharp, '90-'93; J. F. McKnight, '95-'97; George Whiteside, '97-'01; J. J. Thompson, '02-'04; J. R. Greene, '04-'08; F. E. Dean, in charge of the congregation since July 1, 1908.

The following ruling elders compose the session of the church: J. A. McCall, Robert W. Stewart, W. A. Crawford, B. E. Fox, D. M. McLane.

The congregation worshipped for a time in the old Congregational Church. And a few of the Congregationalists, when their work was abandoned, came into the United Presbyterian Church, and the latter church now enjoys the use of the pipe organ belonging to the Congregationalists. At the present writing the number of communicants on the membership list is 77, and the enrollment of the Sabbath School is 95. Rev. T. E. Dean is serving as the present pastor.

CANNONSBURG UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

This congregation was organized as an Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church in 1850. It became a United Presbyterian Church in 1858, when the union between the Associate and the Associate Reformed Churches took place. During its earlier history this congregation was numerically strong and prosperous; but like many other country churches its membership has been greatly depleted by death and removal. On its roll it has counted many of the staunchest citizens of the community. Many of these worthy families have found homes elsewhere; but the few who still remain are loyal to the church; and it bids fair to be an influence for good for many years to come.

The following ministers have served the congregation as pastors: J. R. Bonner, '50-'59; James Rodgers, '62-'68; J. C. Bingham, '69-'71; Wait Wright, '76-'81; J. E. Kerr, '82-84; R. H. Boyd, '84-'87; J. D. Palmer, 1900-01. F. E. Dean, a pastor in Findlay, has had charge of the congregation since July 1, 1908. The members of session are Archie Hanna, Albert Hanna, Harvey Williamson and William Williamson.

CHAPTER XIV.

ALLEN, AMANDA AND BLANCHARD TOWNSHIPS.

ALLEN TOWNSHIP.

This township, containing 15,360 acres, holds a central position in the northern line of townships and was the last to be organized in the county. It was formed of territory taken from the townships of Cass and Portage, and was named in honor of Ethan Allen of Revolutionary fame. It is bounded north by Wood County, east by Cass Township, south by Findlay, and west by Portage Township. The Bellefontaine and Perrysburg State Road runs directly through the center of the township, north and south, this being the oldest road in the county.

On the 3rd day of June, 1850, the Commissioners of the county, "Ordered that a new township be erected of the following territory, and called Allen Township; said territory of Allen to be composed of Sections 5, 6, 7, 8, 17, 18, 19, 20, 29, 30, 31, 32, of Township 2 (Cass) north, Range 11 east, and Sections 1, 2, 11, 12, 13, 14, 23, 24, 25, 26, 35 and 36 in Township 2 (Portage) north, Range 10, east.

It was also "ordered that there be legal notice posted up in the new township of Allen, for the election of the following named officers for said township, to-wit: three trustees, one clerk, one treasurer and one assessor."

The timber in this township was of the valuable hard wood varieties, such as poplar, walnut, ash, oak, sugar, beech and sugar maple. Poplar was very plentiful in the south part of the township, and was so valuable a timber for building purposes that after the building of frame houses was begun, it soon became exhausted.

The soil in the south part of the township is in part what might be called a sandy clay. In parts, however, it is almost all clay, whilst elsewhere it is entirely sand. On the north side of the township, between the ridge and Wood County line, it is a black loam, composed mostly of vegetable matter. But all parts of the township are easily tilled and are very productive.

The middle branch of the Portage River passes through this township, and is the most considerable stream in this part of the county, and which has water the year around. It passes out of the township near the northwest corner. There are no other runs or creeks in the township, yet the surface of the land is sufficiently undulating to furnish all the necessary outlets for drainage.

John Gardner made the first entry of land, in this township, on the 25th day of August, 1826, it being the west half of the northeast

quarter of Section 13. On the first day of June, 1829, Nathan Frakes entered the west half of the southeast quarter of Section 12, afterwards the Samuel Spitler farm. In December, 1828, Major Bright entered the east half of the southwest quarter of Section 36, and a year later, George C. Collins, of Hamilton County, entered the east half of the northeast quarter of Section 36. These entries were followed in 1832 by others, made by Henry Barnel, George Ensminger, Elias Bryan, William Wilkes, Christian Ensperger, and others. In 1826 or 1827 the first settlement was made by Nathan Frakes and one Miller, west of Van Buren, on the Sam. Spitler farm, and by Miller on the farm now owned by J. Kempher. In 1827 came John Trout, Elias S. Bryan and John Burman came, and they were followed by Christian Barnel, who came from Perry county, and located on the Spitler farm, Frakes having purchased and removed to what is now the Infirmary farm. John Barnel, son of Christian, came in the following year, and remained here during his entire life. He, too, moved to the Spitler farm, and his father, with his family, moved to Findlay.

Then came Charles Baker, of Fairfield, the Ensmingers of Wayne, Hugh and John Gilchrist, Jos. Howard and others. All of these families settled around or near the site of the present town of Van Buren.

In 1833 the first election was held in the township, at which time both of the townships of Cass and Portage voted. But eleven votes were cast. The first election held in the present township, was in 1850, in accordance with the order before recited.

The first schoolhouse was built in 1836, on the farm later owned by I. W. Whetstone. It was of the round log, clapboard roof, huge chimney variety. There are now six school houses in the township, all of which have passed through the transition stage from log and frame to the more substantial brick structure.

The first church was built at Van Buren by the Presbyterians, Rev. George Van Emon, pastor. Among the first members were Samuel Huntington, John Leader, some of the Moreheads of Portage Township, and the Campbells, of Wood County. This organization still exists. There are now three church buildings in the township, one Baptist, one Presbyterian, and one United Brethren, all located in the town of Van Buren.

The Baptist Church was organized in 1855, and Henry Roder and wife, Samuel Kagy and E. Smith were some of the first members. Previous to the building of the church, services were held at the house of Henry Rader, and as a branch of the Findlay Church.

The first marriages were those of a Mr. Beeson and a Miss Trout; and Francis Rumor and Miss Ensminger. The first death was that of a child of John Trout.

John Burman built a mill on the creek east of Van Buren, at an early day, which was the first built in the township. But as it was propelled by water, and during a great portion of the year the water was so low in the creek, as not to furnish power, the mill was not of much benefit to the early settlers, who had to patronize the Teatsworth horse-mill at Findlay, or go to Perrysburg, or to Sandusky City for flour or meal.

Every community has its tragedies and a most distressing event of this kind occurred at a very early day, in the settlement of this township. John Gilchrist and his little son, a boy of twelve years of age, and his brother, Hugh

Gilchrist, were out at night hunting raccoons. When about a mile and a half northwest of Van Buren, on the McMurry farm, a 'coon was treed, and it became necessary to cut the tree down in order to get it. Before it fell, John took his son in the direction the tree was to fall, and to a distance that he thought would be out of reach of the falling tree. When it fell, however, it struck another, which in falling killed the boy outright, and broke the thigh of the father. Hugh was unable to move them without help, which he was some time in procuring. He then took his brother to his home, where he died two days after, leaving a wife and five small children. They were very poor, but were assisted by the good neighbors.

The "Wild Cat Thicket," which extended through this township, was in early days so densely covered with an undergrowth, as to be hardly passable, and although game was plenty elsewhere, it could not get through this thicket. The timber or brush was then quite small. Only a few large trees were standing. Mr. Barnd killed forty-five deer the second year that he was in the township, besides large numbers of smaller game, yet he did not consider himself a hunter, as he had his farm to attend to.

The first frame building erected in the township, was the Presbyterian Church, which was built by John Kelley. The first brick building was that of John Trout, on the south of the town of Van Buren. Old Johnny Appleseeds was through this part of the country, and planted a number of apple trees in this township.

The following extract is from a paper read by Mr. George W. Trout, at a meeting of the Pioneer Association of Hancock County, held thirty years ago: "On November 12, 1828, my father, John Trout, with his family, left Somerset, Perry County, Ohio, for the regions of Hancock. He passed through Thornville, Newark, Johnstown, Sunberry, Delaware and Marion, thence into the Wyandotte Reserve, where we remained one night, at the house of a widow Walker, a half-breed Indian, formerly the wife of an Indian. Here we had sight of the first Indians we ever beheld. We took dinner and fed our teams the next day, at a tavern in Upper Sandusky, kept by one Armstrong. Mrs. Armstrong was an Indian. We crossed the Tymochtee Creek near the dwelling of John James. From this place we sent back our four-horse team, and father and my brother Ephraim proceeded to Van Buren, or rather to the settlement near there, as at that time and for many years thereafter, there was no town, to procure teams to take us the balance of the journey. After procuring the necessary teams, on their return, taking the Indian trail, they cut their way back, by way of the Big Springs. We were eleven days, anxiously awaiting their return. We again took up our line of march, and on the following night, stopped with Peter George, in what was then known as the "Swamp Settlement." On leaving Mr. George's, we were told to strike the river as far up as possible on account of high water. This we did, and came to the river at a point called Ashery Ford, but even here the water was so high, that in crossing it, it ran into the wagon box. That night we camped in the woods, having failed to reach any settlement.

"The next day, by dint of hard traveling, by a road we had to make as we went, we, at sunset, arrived at the house of a Mr. Powell, about three miles above Findlay. On the next day, about noon, we reached the old 'Fort,' passing on the way, a schoolhouse, which was

a very insignificant log cabin. There were then but sixteen buildings in Findlay, and these seemed to be built in mud and water.

"Though the town was then in its infancy, its people showed, by the generous assistance afforded us in crossing the river, they at least possessed noble hearts. We crossed the river in a 'Pirogue,' and passed the night in a shanty near where Carlin's mill now stands—now the location of the Toledo Bowling Green and Southern Electric Railroad office. We still had seven miles to go. Mother, brother John and I started on foot, and so continued our journey as long as the logs in the way furnished a passage over the water. But presently we reached the end of this natural bridge. Here, luckily for us, a Mr. Foster came to our relief. He took mother on the horse he had brought with him. All that was left for John and I was to wade, and we did wade until we reached Mr. Foster's house. We had by this time become quite cold, for it had snowed the night before.

Having been refreshed by the kindness of Mr. Foster and his family, we continued our journey, urging our cattle through the mud and over the logs, and at last, about the middle of the afternoon, tired out, we arrived at the house of Mr. Miller, on the farm on which Samuel Spitler now resides (now owned by Stephen D. Spitler). In the evening the balance of our party arrived with the horses, but no wagons. The wagons had got stuck in the mud about three miles back, and the horses were unable to extricate them. It required all the next day to secure the wagons and bring them in, for it was sunset on December 15th, when they arrived at the cabin on the hill. These cabins were of the rudest build, and plainest surroundings. On the morning after the first night in our cabin, our first inquiry was, who are our neighbors, and how far are we from any place? We were on the eastern frontier of our immediate neighborhood, Miller, Bryan and Frakes living about one mile to the west of us. Our nearest neighbor on the east was a Mr. Wade, who lived about eighteen miles distant. On the south, Mr. Foster lived at a distance of about six miles. On the west the nearest settlement was at Fort Defiance, about forty-eight miles away. Twelve miles to the north lived Mr. Haskins.

"Soon after our arrival, the Mr. Miller of whom I have spoken, died, and Mr. Frakes moved to his new home on the river, now the Infirmary farm, which left but two men in the settlement."

AMANDA TOWNSHIP.

Amanda Township borders on the east line of the county, south of the center line, and contains 17,380 acres. It is bounded on the north by Marion and Big Lick Townships, on the east by Wyandotte County, on the south by Wyandotte County and Delaware Township, and on the west by Jackson Township. This township was organized in 1828, the first year of our county's existence.

In the year 1830, at the time of the organization of Marion and Liberty Townships, the territory included in Amanda and Findlay Townships was so divided as to form the four townships Amanda, Marion, Findlay and Liberty. In December, 1831, it was ordered by the Commissioners that "The township of Amanda shall hereafter consist of the original Township 1 south, in Range 12, and Sections 34 and 35, in the original surveyed Township 1 north, in the 12th Range. This township at the present time, and ever since the formation

of Wyandot County (Sections 34 and 35 having been restored to Township 1 north (Big Lick) by act of the County Commissioners), comprises Sections 1, 12, 13, 24, 25 and 36 in Township 1 south, Range 11 east, and Sections 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32 and 33 in Township 1 south, Range 12 east.

The timber was principally walnut, ash, oak, elm, hickory, beech, sugar. There were a few places in the township that were but sparsely wooded; notably so a tract in the northeast part known as the fallen timber region, and a portion of the southeast known as the swamp.

In the eastern part of the township the soil is clay, mixed with sand and gravel and when once properly cultivated is very productive. In the south part is what the people here call the "swamp," a strip of land not many rods wide, but extending almost across the township, from east to west, the soil of which is a deep rich vegetable loam, mixed with sand. This tract at the early settlement of this section, was thought to be almost, if not wholly worthless. But as agricultural science developed the means by which it might be brought into use, it was found not only possible to reclaim it, but that when so reclaimed it was unusually productive. The river bottoms of a sandy, gravelly nature, plentifully mixed with the rich deposits of vegetable matter, made by the overflows of the water, of course are easily tilled, and yield almost abundantly. In the northern part, as we have elsewhere observed, is a tract of about 800 acres known as the "Fallen Timber," the soil of which is a muck, mixed with portions of clay and sand. This tract was originally very wet, and it is owing to this fact, perhaps, that so much of the timber especially the larger, has fallen.

The Blanchard River enters this township near the southwest corner of Section twenty-five, runs east to about the center of the section, and then almost directly north through Sections 24, 13, 12, and into Section 1, when it takes a north-westerly direction, leaving the township near the northwest corner. This river furnishes an abundance of water, as well as drainage for the most part of the township and is of immense value.

Buck Run, a small and unimportant stream, is the only tributary of the Blanchard, and is important only as a source of drainage. The Big Spring on the land of David Smith in the northeast of the township is most valuable on account of the great volume of water discharged as well as the excellent quality of the same. This is undoubtedly the largest spring in the county. Such is the amount of water discharged that an abundance is furnished for the watering of stock in all this part of the township.

Thomas Thompson made the first entry of land in this township, on the 25th day of February, 1822, being the east half of the northwest quarter of Section 3, and on the 27th day of the same month, the west half of the northeast quarter of the same section was entered by Henry McWhorter.

In October, 1823, John Brundidge entered the northwest quarter of Section 36 and John Smith entered the west half of the southwest quarter of the same section in December of the same year. In the month of March, 1825, Isaac Giffort, of the State of New York, made entry of the east half of the northwest quarter of Section 12. In

STEAMER PASTIME AT PARK LANDING, FINDLAY

RIVERSIDE PARK, FINDLAY

BLANCHARD STREET BRIDGE, FINDLAY

PAVILION, RIVERSIDE PARK, FINDLAY

1826, Ira Baker and John Shoemaker made entries. These were followed in 1827 by John Beard, Peter George, Abraham Cole and others, and in 1828 by Jesse Gilbert, John J. Hendricks, Andrew Beck and others.

In 1824 Thomas Thompson made the first settlement made in this township, near the Big Springs, about one mile from the site of the present town of VanLue,—the water of this spring is now used to supply the city of Findlay with water—and in 1825, John Huff and William Hackney came. Soon after came James Beard, John Shoemaker, Henry George and Thomas Cole, followed by Peter George, James Gibson, John Hewitt and Aquilla Gilbert. Judge Abraham Huff was also a pioneer of this township. The first election held in the township was in 1828. Thomas Thompson was a resident of this township for more than fifty years, and was highly esteemed by his neighbors. He was engaged in farming, an occupation which he followed to within a few years of his death. On his retirement he moved to the village of VanLue, where he spent his last years in quiet, and died, regretted by his many friends.

A well known character in the early days was Peter George, who was known as the "Pioneer Land Hunter," he having entertained, and guided through the forests of Hancock County, more land hunters and immigrants than any other man in the county. He served as county commissioner for six years, with integrity and honesty of purpose. William Hackney was one of the first officers of the county, and is mentioned elsewhere.

Aquilla Gilbert, one of the first settlers of Jackson, as well as of this township, taught the first school in this township. Mr. Gilbert was prominently connected with the affairs of the county almost from its first organization, and held office in both township and county. He was one of the commissioners for six years, having been elected in 1837. He served as justice of the peace for five consecutive terms in Jackson Township, and three terms in Amanda Township.

The first schoolhouse, as stated by Aquilla Gilbert, was built in the Messemore neighborhood, and the first school was taught by Mr. Gilbert. Another opinion, that of J. M. VanHorn, is that the first schoolhouse was built near the center of the township, and that the first school kept in the township was in a house on the farm of Uriah Egbert, in about the year 1831, and that one George Smith was teacher. It is not very material which of these gentlemen is correct, for all agree that these two schools were almost, of not quite contemporaneous. There are now eight sub-districts in the township, each of hich has a comfortable schoolhouse, and nearly all are of brick construction.

The first church was built in 1831, in the south part of the township. It was known as the "Swamp Church" and was owned by the Lutheran denomination. Among the first membership, we find the names of Fred Brenner and ife, Adam Alspach and wife, and several members of the Beck family. The first sermon preached in the township was a Rev. Thompson, an Indian Missionary. There are now in this township eight church buildings as follows: one Methodist Episcopal, one Methodist Protestant, two United Brethren (one in Vanlue and

one at "the swamp" properly known as the Union Church), one Baptist, one German Reformed, one Lutheran and one Disciples.

There have been three Post Offices in this township, but two of them were long since discontinued. The first established was the Blanchard Bridge at the house of Aquilla Gilbert, on the Blanchard River. Mr. Gilbert was the first and only postmaster.

The office was in existence for many years and was a great accommodation to the citizens. But villages sprung up in the vicinty and travel took another route and the office was discontinued. Shortly after the establishment of "Blanchard Bridge" another office was established near the Richard Hall farm and called "Ashery." Joseph Twining was the first and only Postmaster here. This office was long since discontinued for the reason that the necessity for its existence has passed away. The third office was established at Vanlue of which we will speak in the proper place.

Amanda is one of the most populous townships in the county, and it is fast becoming one of the wealthiest. Each year sees the better improvements of the older farms, and the reclaiming of new lands; the erection of a better class of farm buildings and the introduction of the latest improved farming implements. The early settlers came principally from the eastern counties in the State, and their descendants are an active, energetic and progressive people.

BLANCHARD TOWNSHIP.

Blanchard Township is on the west border of the county, bounded north by Pleasant Township, east by Liberty, south by Union, and west by the Hardin County line. It derives its name from the river, which passes through it from east to west, dividing it into almost equal parts. The township contains 23,040 acres.

The soil in this township varies with the locality. Along the river it is a rich sandy loam, mixed with vegetable deposits, made by the overflow of the river. On the south ridge it is a fertile, sandy soil and between the ridge and the river bottoms the land is flat and rather wet, but covered by a rich deep soil of vegetable loam, mixed in places with sand or clay. On the north side of the river, after getting back from the bottom lands the soil is almost invariably clay, good wheat and grazing lands, whilst for the production of corn the bottom lands are not excelled anywhere.

Oak, ash, hickory, sugar, beech, walnut, and poplar, are the principal timbers. Of the latter kind, there were immense amounts, and of the finest quality, but such has been the demand for it, that it has almost entirely disappeared.

This township is well watered by the Blanchard River and Ottowa Creek. The river passes through the township and furnishes water the whole year around and also the best of drainage. It is subject to occasional overflows, but does no material damage.

Ottowa Creek rises in Section thirty-six, in Union Township, runs in a northerly direction, enters Blanchard Township in Section thirty-six, runs north, thence west, thence in a north-easterly direction, and empties into the Blanchard River in Section fourteen. Its distance in the township is about four miles. It is quite a consider-

able stream, and there have been quite a number of saw-mills along its course, at different times. It furnished the means of drainage for almost the entire south part of the township.

The act of the commissioners in organizing this township, was passed in 1833, in the following words: "That original surveyed Township No. 1 north, Range 9 east, shall be known and organized by the name of Blanchard." In March, 1834, the commissioners "Ordered that Township 2 north, Range 9 (Pleasant Township), be attached to Blanchard Township," but a year later this township was detached from Blanchard and organized into a separate township.

The first entries of land made in this township were the north half of the northwest quarter of Section 13, by David Stinson, and the northeast quarter of the northeast quarter of Section 13, by John Veal, both entries being made on the twelfth day of August, 1822. On the 19th day of the same month and year, W. A. Johnson entered the southeast quarter of the northeast quarter of Section 15. In September, 1825, John Hunter took up the south half of southwest quarter of Section 15, and James McClish entered the east half of northeast quarter of Section 20. In 1827, Orlando Moffit entered the west part of southeast fractional quarter of Section 27, and John Dukes the east half of the northwest quarter of Section 15, and Henry Epley the east part of the southeast quarter of Section 18. These entries were followed by others, and a settlement of the township followed close on the entries.

The year 1826 saw the first settlement in this township, when John Hunter and John Chandler, both of Fairfield County, located on the south side of the river, on the George Shaw, and afterward the Alfred Davis farm. The majority of the settlers in this part of the county were from the interior of the state, with now and then a family from Pennsylvania and New York.

These first two families were not long without neighbors, for in 1828, Richard, John and Lewis Dukes, of Franklin County, and Thomas Groves, of Pickaway County, settled on the opposite side of the river, and opened up extensive farms, and erected comfortable buildings. Of these four pioneers all lived to the end of their lives on their farms excepting Richard Dukes, who in his latter years moved to Findlay and spent the balance of his life enjoying the fruits of his early labor. His last years were peaceful and quiet, spent in the enjoyment of the company of his friends, his home and its comforts, and he left a goodly inheritance to his children. Three of his sons—Lewis, Eli and W. P.—are now residing in Findlay as retired farmers.

Lewis Dukes, Sr., came to this township in 1826, and when only about nineteen years of age, and hired out as a farm hand. In a few years, by his industry and frugality, he was able, at the low wages then paid, to accumulate enough money to enter a tract of eighty acres of land. This he improved, and was enabled as the country improved, to add many acres of valuable land to it, until he became one of the wealthiest men in the township. Mr. Dukes was twice married, but was never blessed with children. He united with the Methodist Church in early life, and remained a consistent mem-

ber until his death, ever living up to his profession.

John Dukes remained in this township until he became well advanced in years, and had witnessed the many changes which had occurred, when he disposed of his property and removed to Wood County, where after a residence of several years, he too was gathered to his fathers.

The Dukes brothers were early and consistent members of the Methodist Church and friends to and workers in the Sabbath Schools. The first church building in the county was put up in this immediate neighborhood and they contributed largely not only to its erection, but also to sustaining the ministers sent among them. This old log church was superseded by a frame building erected a little further west, which was used by the same society until about 1879, when it in its turn made room for a more comfortable and pretentious brick building. There are now two Methodist Episcopal, two United Brethren, and one Evangelical Church in the township, all good substantial buildings.

Shortly after the settlement made on the north side of the river by the Dukes and others, the Powells, Foglesong, John L. and Richard Carson, Engle, Baldwin, Fishel, Hughes, the Downings, Knepper, and some other families settled in and near the present town of Benton. Solomon Foglesong, and his brother-in-law Knepper, came there perhaps as early as 1830 and settled on the banks of the "Tawa," as it is generally called. Foglesong, almost the last survivor of the first residents, was living on the old homestead in 1881, but the weight of years was heavy upon him and he passed away not long after.

Rev. John Powell devoted his life to the ministry of the United Brethren Church and who not only acquired a good farm by his industry and economy, but within a few years found a reputation as the founder of the Powell Association, and the successful manager of two re-unions of the family, as well as the author of a memorial history of the Powell Family. He lived to enjoy the quiet of his farm in the southern part of the township.

Jacob Engle, the kind, generous, large-hearted "Dutchman," as he was called, cleared up and occupied a splendid farm adjoining the present site of Benton, where he lived for years amongst his many friends until about 1860, when he was called away to meet his reward. Honest, generous to a fault, he was a good neighbor, and a social, genial companion. He left a wife and a large family of children, who have since all emigrated to the West, the widow and most of the children going to Iowa.

David M. Baldwin was one of the earliest settlers of the southern part of the township, having come from Fairfield County, and settled on lands adjoining the town of Benton Ridge. All was a wilderness when he came, and he lived long enough to see one of the finest neighborhoods in the county. Mr. Baldwin was a genial, whole-souled man, ever ready to accommodate to the extent of his ability, and equally ready to resent an insult. For years he kept a tavern, where the weary traveler always found a comfortable bed and a well laden table. His descendants are still living in the vicinity of his old home.

The brothers, Thomas, William and John Moffitt, commenced their residence here about the time the Dukes came. Thomas, after making for himself a home and its comforts, was attacked with the "Western Fever," sold his farm and emigrated to Iowa, or the "Black Hawk Country," as it was then called, where he passed the remainder of his life. John and William Moffitt and McClish remained to spend their lives in Blanchard Township. They were among its most substantial citizens.

Michael Fishell, one of the early residents, sold his farm west of Benton about 1887 and moved to McComb where he spent the balance of his days.

Alfred Davis, another frontiersman, and at one time one of the solid men of the county, owned and occupied a magnificent tract of land on both sides of the river, but unfortunately met with reverses in the latter part of his life; but even in his misfortunes he retained the high regard of his neighbors. He was a man of undoubted integrity of character.

George Shaw, one of the early commissioners of the county, owned a splendid farm here, on which he spent the greater part of his life, and here he died and was buried.

At an early day came also Jeremiah Cocle, David Millham, Solomon Foglesong (or, as in the original, Voglegesong), and the Epleys. These early settlers were all farmers, and no richer agricultural lands could be found in the State than those which they took up and their descendants occupy. These pioneers were hardy, temperate, frugal, energetic and industrious. and well deserve to be placed on the roll of honor as such.

The first marriage was that of John Dukes and Hannah Houchings, the Rev. Thomas Thompson officiating. Two little children of George Shaw were the first in the township to die.

Owen Hughes was one of those honest, upright, cheerful men that are the strength and life of a new settlement. He lived to a good old age and died as he had long lived, a consistent member of the church and a Christian man. He was twice married, but both his wives died before he did.

Dick Carson was one of the champion fighters of the county. Not that he was quarrelsome or chronically pugnacious, but he was a powerful courageous man, of a somewhat sensitive nature, and while not ill-tempered, especially when sober, he was quick to resent an indignity, or an imputation of his courage or veracity. He was just such a man as every township or county wanted to defend its honor, as it was then the fashion, at a general training, or a county horse race. Dick was just the man for that, as many an unlucky braggart found to his utter discomfiture. He was a good neighbor, a firm friend, and, under ordinary circumstances, a peaceable citizen. His brother John L. Carson was at one time surveyor of the county. The two Carsons and their families finally emigrated farther west.

The Downings were of the first settlers, and were a hardy, industrious family, and all became quite well off in course of time. George, David, and William went to California in 1849, but after a few years' experience there they returned to Blanchard Township and applied themselves to agricultural pursuits, and by industry and economy made great additions to

their western earnings. In after years William moved to Kansas, where he had the honor of representing his county in the State Legislature. He was followed to his new home by his father, "old Johnny Downing" as he was familiarly called, and his brother Isaac and family. The old gentleman and Isaac have died long ago. George resided in this township until about 1871, when he went to Iowa, where he lived many years.

David Downing was one of the wealthiest and most respected citizens of the township. He was a model farmer with one of the finest dwelling houses, not only in the township but in the county, commodious and convenient outbuildings. His pecuniary circumstances enabled him to devote much of his time to the breeding and introduction of fine cattle in the county. He had some of the best herds in this part of the State. He dealt largely in stock cattle, being quite an extensive feeder. He was a member of the board of managers of the Hancock County Agricultural Society for a number of years and devoted much time in making the Society one of the best in the State. And his efforts and those of his associates were not unsuccessful. He had sons and daughters, all married and some, if not all, I believe, reside in this or adjoining townships.

This locality on account of the abundance of fish and game, was one of the resorts of the Indians on their hunting expeditions. And indeed hunting and fishing were not only among the amusements of the whites, but they were occupations necessary to the support of themselves and families. The fish-net and the rifle was a part of the furniture of every well regulated log cabin, and by their skillful use the tables of the pioneer were bountifully spread.

In 1848 a post office was established in this township called Oak Ridge. It was first located at the house of William Downing on the Findlay Defiance State road, north side of the river. Mr. Downing was the first postmaster. It was an office of no importance, only as it gave the community in which it was located, mail facilities. It has since been discontinued. Mr. Downing was succeeded by the following persons as postmaster: Robert Marshall, Mr. Morris, Mrs. Wm. Downing, Rezin Cook, David Downing, Eli Dukes and L. C. Groves.

The first school in Blanchard Township was held in a log cabin affair, which stood near what was later the site of the Thomas Groves residence, and was built in 1830. It was taught by John W. Wickham. There are now ten school buildings in the township and the enumeration of youth is three hundred and eighty-four.

CHAPTER XV.

BIG LICK, CASS, AND DELAWARE TOWNSHIPS.

BIG LICK TOWNSHIP.

The county commissioners, at their session of March 7, 1831, after defining the boundaries and extent of Amanda Township "Ordered that the original survey of Township 1 north, in range 12 east, except Sections 34 and 35 shall hereafter be known and organized by the name of Big Lick. On June 3, 1833, Robert L. Strother and John Rose, commissioners, being present, the following order was passed: "Ordered that Big Lick Township shall include the whole of the original surveyed Township No. 1 north, in Range 12." Since the passage of that order, the township has been known as an original township of thirty-six sections. It contains 23,040 acres.

This township is on the east line of the county and is bounded on the north by Washington Township, on the east by Seneca County, on the south by Wyandotte County and Amanda Township and on the west by Marion Township.

The general surface of the land is level, although some parts are undulating. The prevailing soil is clay loam. In the southwestern part of the township is a sand ridge which is underlaid with limestone. In that locality is also a marsh or prairie, some 1,500 acres in extent, which is entirely a vegetable soil, and largely unreclaimed, except for grazing purposes. It will no doubt all be brought under final cultivation by the help of drainage. That so much of it has been reclaimed is largely due to the enterprise and well directed exertions of Judge Corey, of Findlay, who at one time owned most of the entire tract.

The timber, which has long since been cut down, embraced red, white and burr oak, blue, black and white ash, beech, elm, hard and soft maple, sycamore, black and white walnut, hickory, basswood and buckeye. The township was traversed by a ridge of white oak of such excellence, that shipments of logs were extensively made to foreign countries.

No streams of water traverse the township of sufficient size to furnish water-power. The only stream that maintains a current during the entire year is the outlet to the marsh or prairie. This sluggish stream takes its size in Seneca County, runs in a westerly direction and empties into the Blanchard River near Mr. Allen Wiseley's in Marion Township. There are a number of smaller streams, which, however, are only water courses in wet weather.

In September, 1821, Henry McWhorter made entry of the west half of the southeast quarter of Section thirty-four. This was the first entry of land in the township. In May,

1825, the east half of the southeast quarter of Section 27 was entered by John G. Alspach, and September 5th of the same year Eliza Huff entered the east half of the northwest quarter of Section thirty-four. In December, 1828, John Shoemaker made entry of the east half of the southeast quarter of Section 17. These entries were followed in 1829 by those of John Huff, of the west half of the southeast quarter of Section 17 and of the west half of the northeast quarter of Section 21, by John Long. In 1830 Henry Hinebaugh, of Fairfield County, entered the northeast quarter of Section 1, and in the same year Uriah Egbert took up the west half of the northwest quarter of Section 19, and about the same time an entry of the west half of the northwest quarter was made by Philip Essex. William Hackett, of Stark County, William Roller, of Richland, Elijah Brayton, of Crawford, Mary Graham, of Madison, John Graham, William Wisely and others made entries of land, and became residents of the township.

The first actual settler in Big Lick Township was Samuel Sargent, from Ross County, who made an improvement on the limestone ridge, in the southeastern part of the township some time in 1826. In the following year John Long located near the center. In February, 1829, John Shoemaker settled about three-fourths of a mile west from Mr. Long's. Mr. Shoemaker could recount the many hardships and incidents of frontier life. Long and Shoemaker came from Fairfield County, this state.

In 1831 was held the first township election, the electors present being John Shoemaker, Robert Long, Levi Poulson and Cornelius Poulson. Whilst these men were holding an election and organizing the township the good Mrs. Long, at whose house they met, prepared them a dinner of the best in her larder. Amongst the early settlers here were the Thomases, the Moores, the Rollers, the Grahams and the Poulsons.

Numerous sulphur springs on the farm of Robert Long, near the center of the township, comprise what used to be a famous deer lick called "Big Lick," from which the township derives its name. Large numbers of deer were killed here by the owner of this land and others.

Mr. Long, on one occasion, had secured his seat in a tree convenient to the lick, when a colored man, who had been assisting in driving some cattle from some point farther west, and was on his return home, being overtaken by night, concluded to camp near the springs. Mr. Long supposing him to be a rival hunter watching for deer concluded to frighten him away, whereupon he made such an unearthly noise that the poor fellow took to his heels and never stopped until he brought up in the Blanchard River, near Allen Wiseley's. He had so overheated himself as to cause his death soon afterwards—a tragic ending of the joke that Mr. Long had not anticipated.

Gangs of Indian hunters and trappers made the neighborhood their rendezvous and greatly annoyed the early settlers. Mr. Shoemaker, who was more progressive than his neighbors, had secured a grindstone, of which the Indians made such extensive use to sharpen their dull tomahawks and knives, that it was soon entirely worn out. They also had a way of trading venison for pork and potatoes with Mrs. John Moore, in which she invariably came out second best. Knowing that she was afraid of them, they would make their visits in the absence of her husband, when she, in order to get rid of them, would send them to the patch to help themselves, which they did so liberally

that the whole crop had soon disappeared. Vermin were also destructive to the corn. The settlers could only protect themselves by the use of the rifle, and if one chanced to be a poor shot he employed some one by the day who was an expert with the gun. At night too, the corn needed watching to save it from the raccoons. Mr. Moore at that time owned 160 acres of land and was perhaps as well off as any of his neighbors. He was, however, compelled to manufacture his own furniture. His first child was rocked in a sugar trough, made by "Big River," a Wyandot chief, and which had been used before the arrival of Mr. Moore in the country as a sap trough by the Indians.

Mr. Moore's first bedstead was made by himself of iron-wood poles. The cords were of bass-wood bark, well interlaced together. No straw was to be had with which to fill the ticks and Mr. Moore thereupon gathered forest leaves sufficient to make a mattress. Mr. Moore was elected first supervisor of roads in the township and had for a district the north half of the township some eighteen square miles. He superintended the opening of the New Haven Road from the east township line westward to near the center of the township.

As all the inclosed land had to be cultivated in order to produce food for man and beast, stock of every description was allowed to run at large in the forest. The damage done to crops by stock running at large made trouble amongst the people, and a board of fence viewers became necessary. This board were to determine, when called upon, whether or not the enclosure was a sufficient or legal fence. Accordingly William Roller, who was noted for his avoirdupoise, William Moore, who was noted for his diminutiveness, and Richard Bayless, noted for his activity, were chosen as the Board of Fence Viewers. It was then agreed that any fence which would bear Mr. Roller and through which Mr. Moore could not creep nor Mr. Bayless jump over should be declared a lawful fence.

The first schoolhouse in the township was built in 1836, exclusively by voluntary labor. It was located in the forest a full half mile from any public highway, upon the farm now or lately owned by the heirs of James Graham. There were but two sub-districts in the township at the time. Sometime subsequent to the above date there was another schoolhouse built, about two miles west of the first on the lands owned by the heirs of Moses McAnnelly. A fair interest was taken in the cause of education by the citizens of this township; the schools have been kept up to an efficient standard and are well attended by the youth of the township.

The first church erected in the township was a hewed log structure thirty-six feet square and located on the present site of Enon Valley Church on the Findlay and Tiffin road. It was built in 1844 by the citizens in the neighborhood, mainly however of the combined efforts of the Presbyterian, Covenanters and Seceders. The first site selected for the building was upon Robert Leonard's farm, some two miles southeast from the one subsequently built upon. Rev. R. H. Hooyday, of Findlay, Superintended the building of the church. There are now eight churches in this township. Two owned by the Evangelical denomination, two by the United Brethren, two Methodist Episcopal, one Presbyterian and one Christian Union. Amongst the first church members were Henry Thomas and wife, James Thomas and wife and Andrew Poulson.

Big Lick Township has been so developed in its resources, as to be one of the richest in

the county. Wheat, corn, oats and grass are the principal crops and also produced in large quantities. The Findlay and Carey Branch of the Cleveland, Sandusky and Cincinnati Railroad runs through the township for a short distance.

John Moore, commonly known among his near friends as "Farmer John" (P. O. Findlay), was born near Lancaster, Pa., October 16, 1808, son of Hugh and Susan (Buckwalter) Moore, the former a native of Tyrone County, Ireland, and the latter of Pennsylvania. Hugh Moore came to America about the year 1800 and settled in Pennsylvania. He had these children, John, William, Nancy, Amanda, George, Joseph, Samuel, Elizabeth, and Sarah.

John Moore came to Ohio with his parents in 1828 and settled in Richland, now Ashland County. He was married in 1833 to Agness W. Roller, daughter of Judge William Roller, a descendant of Captain Weston, an old English navigator and explorer. To Mr. and Mrs. Moore were born eleven children, of whom four are now living, Nancy, Bruce, Lucinda, and Amanda. The deceased are Susannah, Mary, Ross W., William, Dorr, Duff, and Emma.

Mr. Moore came to this county in 1833 with his wife's father, who entered eight quarter-sections of land in Big Lick Township, Mr. Moore getting the northwest quarter of Section 15 as his part, and building his log cabin near its center. This farm is now owned by his eldest daughter, Mrs. A. J. Moore.

Mr. Moore was among the first settlers in this township and came here with his young wife, when all was new, and when energy, industry and good health were the requisites to success, these qualities were all combined in Mr. Moore and his brave wife. They soon opened up a farm, and his house was the stopping place for the stranger emigrant, and at his table was ever found a generous hospitality. Mr. Moore endured all the hardships of frontier life and in his old age was surrounded by his children and grandchildren, in the midst of plenty, the fruits of his toil. He enjoyed life peacefully and quietly, tenderly caring for his good wife, who was an invalid during the latter part of her life. He was one of the largest land owners, as well as one of the wealthiest men in the township. He always followed the independent life of a farmer and was a staunch friend of our public schools and was a public spirited citizen during his whole life. In politics he was a Democrat and voted for Andrew Jackson. Mr. Moore died at his home December 4, 1890, his wife having preceded him to the grave August 9, 1888. Their remains rest side by side in the Bright Cemetery near Mt. Zion Church in Marion Township, this county.

Moses M'Annelly was one of the prominent men of the county, as well as of this township, coming here at an early day and being a man of more than ordinary intelligence, he took the lead in the new settlements. He represented this county in both branches of the Ohio Legislature, and was regarded as an honest, upright man. He, too, was an agriculturist, and made for himself and family a pleasant and valuable home. He has been dead a number of years.

John Shoemaker came to this township from Fairfield County in February, 1829,

having the year previous entered lands in Section 17. There were but a very few families in the township at that time, among whom were Samuel Sargeant, on the limestone ridge, and John Long, in the immediate neighborhood of Mr. Sargeant's settlement. Mr. Shoemaker was present and assisted at the organization of the township in 1831. The cultivation of the soil was always his occupation. Honest, industrious and hospitable, he always commanded the respect of the community. His sterling good sense always made his advice valuable. He reaped the fruits of his long years of toil and privation, happy in the consciousness of the unvaried rectitude of his life. He has been dead several years.

William Roller, one of the associate judges of the Common Pleas Court of the county, was also a resident of this township. As a judge, his good common sense and honesty of action gave him his very flattering reputation. Honest in his convictions, sympathetic in his feelings, he could hardly err in his decisions, as he was a man of average intelligence and fair common school education. He never abandoned the occupation of a farmer, but succeeded in amassing a competency and leaving a considerable inheritance to his children. He was respected by his neighbors and was always a friend of those in need. Unostentatious in his private life, and courteous in public, he could not but have hosts of friends.

CASS TOWNSHIP.

On the 1st day of March, 1833, the commissioners "Ordered that the original surveyed Township Number 2, in Range 11 east, be set off into a separate township, politic and corporate, and to be called Cass." Ordered that an order be issued to the voters of Cass, to meet on the first Monday of April and elect township officers.

At the formation of Allen Township in 1850, Sections 5, 6, 7, 8, 17, 18, 20, 29, 30, 31, and 32 of this township were taken to assist in the forming of that township. Hence there are but twenty-four sections in this township at present.

Cass Township was named in honor of Gen. Lewis Cass, of Michigan, and is located on the north border of the county. Bounded on the north by Wood County, on the east by Washington Township, on the south by Marion and on the west by Allen Township. The township contains 15,360 acres.

The timber of Cass Township was abundant and comprised oak, ash, hickory, sugar, beech, elm, walnut and poplar, with perhaps a few other varieties. The soil on the ridge in the northern part of the township is sandy and gravelly. Between the ridge and the Wood County line, it is a loam of vegetable formation, whilst south of the ridge there is a mixture of clay with other soil.

The Portage River has its source in this part of Hancock County and is the only stream of water in this township. Good drinking water, however, is obtained by sinking wells to a no very great depth.

David P. Day, of Wayne County, O., made the first entry of land in this township on March 10, 1832, at which time he took up the northeast quarter of Section 11. Two days afterwards John Franks entered the southwest quarter of Section 1, and the

north half of Section 10. Mr. Franks was also from Wayne County. May 3, 1832, Elam Day entered the east half of the northwest quarter of Section 12 and on the 31st day of the same month, Eleazer C. Fairchild, of Trunbull County, entered the southwest quarter of the southeast quarter of Section 2, and the west half of the northwest quarter of Section 12. In the same year, entries were made by Andrew W. Page, of Green County, D. Shippy, of Seneca, C. W. Colebaugh, Alphens Eldridge, James Wood, Samuel McClellan, of Wayne, William Eckles, of Holmes, James Beeson, of Fayette.

The first schoolhouse was built in 1835 and there are now six schoolhouses in the township and the enumeration of youth of school age in 1880 was 278.

The first church was built in 1843 by the Methodist Episcopal denomination, and was known as the Vickers Church on the ridge. There are now but two church buildings in the township and they both belong to the Methodist Episcopal denomination.

The first settlements were made in 1833 on Sections 1, 2 and 3 by E. C. Fairchild, Daniel Fairchild, David P. and Elam Day, James Vickers, John Franks, Hames Brown, Samuel Harry, and on Section 12 by Charles Eckles, John Welch and George Elliot. On Section 11 by John Hardy, Hiram Hulbert and James Woods. The early settlers here were mostly from the eastern part of this state.

In 1837 a post office was established in this township, which was discontinued in 1867. Daniel Fairchild and James Vickers were the only postmasters.

There is much very valuable land in this part of the county, and the farms and farm buildings, for style and comfort, will compare favorably with that of any other township in the county, as will also the type of citizenship. The Lake Erie and Western Railroad runs across the southeast corner of the township and the New York, Chicago and St. Louis road passes through the township from east to west.

John Burman was born in Luzerne County, Pa., February 18, 1783, and removed to Fairchild County, Ohio, where he was married to Catherine Fisher. He was a gunsmith and worked at that trade until he came to this county in 1828, after which time he was a farmer. He, his father, and two brothers were in the service of the United States in the War of 1812. On coming to this county with his family, he took up his residence in a log cabin on the land which he subsequently occupied up to the time of his death.

Mr. Burman was of medium height, and weighed about 175; of strong constitution and robust health he was well calculated to do battle with the hardships of pioneer life. In religious belief, he was a Lutheran, and was a member of that church many years. He built the first mill in the township. During the first year of his residence here, his was the only family residing in the township. Two of his sons were in the army during the rebellion. Mr. Burman died in 1863 and his aged wife survived him about five years.

Ezra Karn was one of a family of eight boys and four girls, all of whom attained full age except one, and was born in Washington County, Md., September 16, 1815. The family removed to Ohio in 1817, set-

tling in Holmes County. In 1836 Mr. Karn came to Hancock County with his family and settled in this township on the farm later owned by P. C. Redfern. Again the family became frontiersmen, the country being new, and but sparsely settled, and without roads or markets. Here the Karns had as neighbors, John Hardy, Hiram Hulbert, Daniel Fairchild, John Franks, John Eckles, and James Vickers.

In 1839 Mr. Karn married Miss Elizabeth Albertson, and commenced at once to make for himself a home. He cleared up two farms and by his industry and perseverance succeeded in surrounding himself and family with the comforts of civilization. Mr. Karn had a family of eight children. His wife died in May, 1880, after a long and useful life. Mr. Karn had the confidence of his neighbors and acquaintances for his sterling honesty and good common sense. He was a member of the Lutheran Church and his life was one consistent with his profession. He was one of the very first members and for many years an officer of the Hancock County Agricultural society, organized in 1852, and always lent his influence and aid to its building up and its success is largely due to his continual labors in its behalf. He was vice president of the society for several years.

James Vickers was born in England and came to this country in about 1825 and settled in Wayne County, Ohio. In 1833 he made his way to this county and commenced his labors on the farm later owned by his son, James A. No man in the township was more generally respected than was Mr. Vickers. Conscientious, honest, temperate, and hospitable, kind to all. a friend to the poor and always ready to render assistance to the weary emigrant. His house was the home of the Methodist itinerant and here services were held until a suitable building could be erected upon his land. To the building of this house and the sustaining of the minister of the church he was a liberal contributor. Mr. Vickers was a farmer and by the aid of his good wife and his family, which was a large one, he always had an abundance. He died in 1867, lamented by the entire community. His wife survived him until 1881.

John Eckles was born in Westmoreland County, Penn., on the 25th day of April, 1795, and resided in that state until 1836. In 1819 Mr. Eckles married Esther Booth, with whom he lived up to the time of her decease in 1862. His ancestors were from Ireland. During his whole active life he followed the occupation of a farmer. He is a man of strong will and of very decided opinions, and was not easily swerved from his purposes. In 1836 with his wife and four sons he emigrated to this township. He purchased 220 acres of land on the ridge, between Fostoria and Van Buren, principally of John Franks, Sr., which he developed into one of the very best farms on the ridge. The country was new, no markets, no roads, no neighbors scarcely, and the family endured all the hardships incident to new settlements. Mr. Eckles united with the Presbyterian Church in early life, and was one of the first members of that church at Van Buren.

DELAWARE TOWNSHIP.

The territory now included in the township of Delaware was organized in the year 1828,

and was at first named Welfare. On June 1, 1829, agreeable to the petition of sundry citizens of the township, the name of Welfare was changed to that of Delaware. The township no doubt owes its present name to the fact that the Delaware tribe of Indians made this part of the county a favorite resort. This township now includes Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 33, 34, 35, 36, in Township 2 south, Range 11 east and Sections 6, 7, 18, 19, 30 and 31, in Township 2 south, Range 12 east. It is located in the southeast corner of the county and bounded on the north by Amanda and Jackson Townships, on the east by Wyandotte County, on the south by Hardin County, on the west by Madison Township. It contains thirty sections of land, or 19,200 acres.

The soil of Delaware Township is generally a black sandy loam, intermixed with clay in some parts. The Blanchard River traverses the township from south to north and with its fertile bottom lands and numerous creek bottoms, makes it one of the best agricultural districts in the county. Many of the most beautiful farms in the county are to be found here. The land—as in all parts of the county—was heavily wooded, and the improvements we see here are the result of most arduous toil.

The timber that was found here was of the usual kinds, indigenous to the country, such as sugar, beech, elm (white and black), ash, the different varieties of the oak, walnut, hickory, hackberry, buckeye, etc.

The township is well watered by the Blanchard River, which crosses it, and by the creeks and runs tributary to it. The most considerable creek is in the eastern part of the township and called Potato Creek. Good drinking water can be had in all portions of the township by sinking wells from ten to thirty feet.

The lands in this township were mostly purchased by emigrants from the southeastern counties of Ohio. A few, however, were from Pennsylvania and Virginia. This was a full township of thirty-six sections until the formation of Wyandotte County in 1845, when one tier of sections on the east side were taken to help form that county.

Asa M. Lake made the first entry of lands in this township Dec. 12, 1822. The tract entered was the west half of the northwest quarter of Section 1. This tract was on the east side of the Blanchard River and is now occupied in part by the village of Mt. Blanchard. In 1823 entries were made in the following order as to dates: Michael Buck, west half of the northeast quarter of Section 2; Curtis Berry, east half of northeast quarter of Section 2; John Brundage, the southwest quarter of Section 1; W. J. Greer, east half of northwest quarter of Section 1; John Rose, east half of southwest quarter of Section 14; William Davis east half of northwest quarter of Section 14. Then followed entries by David Augustus, Marquis Lafayette Plumb, Levi Edgington and others, in 1826, and by Josiah Elder, Godfrey Wolford and others in 1827.

Asa M. Lake built a log cabin on a parcel of ground afterwards owned by Michael Treece and in the limits of the village of Mt. Blanchard. The parcel of land had been used by the Indians as a burying ground and many skeletons and relics have been found there.

Amongst the first settlers of this township, in addition to Asa M. Lake, were Josiah Elder, the Hamlins, the Wolfords and the Greers. The settlement here was perhaps the very earliest in the county next to that at Findlay.

Don Alonzo Hamlin was the first sheriff of the county and was also county assessor. Godfrey Wolford was coroner of the county and was also county commissioner, and Asa M. Lake was one of the first justices of the peace in the county.

Mr. Lake after coming to this county resided here up to the time of his death. He was a typical pioneer—hardy, industrious and honest—and succeeded in building up for himself and his children a home in one of the richest sections of our county, living long enough to see a thriving village built up on the very lands he had redeemed from the wilderness, and peopled with an intelligent and energetic population, supplied with schools and churches and other appliances of civilization. The redman who had been his early companions had long since removed westward, and herds of domestic animals taken the place of the wild. Josiah Elder, whose parents came to this part of the county almost simultaneously with the Lakes, after spending an honest, active lifetime, almost, in the township, died many years ago on the old homestead.

Mrs. Henry Helms, a sister of Mr. Elder, related to D. B. Beardsley some years ago the incidents connected with her wedding day, in that long ago. She was first married to William J. Greer of this township. She relates that her intended husband and herself travelled from Delaware Township to Findlay on horse-back (both on one horse) through the almost trackless wilderness, where they obtained a license, and then in the same manner went to the residence of Joshua Hedges, a justice of the peace three miles west of Findlay where they were married, and returned to their homes. The trip occupied three days.

The first schoolhouse was built in 1830 near the center of the township, on the farm owned by J. A. Rose. The first school was taught by John Wolford. The school population was not large at that time, and were easily accommodated in the log schoolhouse. The enumeration of school age in this township is 355, outside the town of Mt. Blanchard. There are now eight schoolhouses in the township, one graded and seven common or ungraded.

The first church in Delaware Township was built in 1838, by the Methodist Episcopal denomination, in the town of Mt. Blanchard. But it must not be supposed that the people were without religious services up to that time. Services had been held in schoolhouses and private houses. There are now seven churches in the township, three Methodist Protestant, two Methodist Episcopal, one Baptist and one Presbyterian.

Godfrey Wolford built a flouring mill on the Blanchard River in 1830, near the center of the township. The mill was known as Fahl's Mills. And Felix Miller built a sawmill—the first in the township—on the Blanchard River, near the south line of the township.

The only stillhouse ever in the township was built in 1833 by Abner Bell. It was run but a short time and was then sold to Samuel Thornton and removed to Jackson Township, where it was operated for several years.

The first white child born in this township was John B. Elder and it is believed to have been the first white child born in the county. Marion Greer was the first white female born in the township. Nancy Williams, wife of Nathan Williams, was the first white person who died in this township.

The first election for township officers was held in 1832. R. W. Hamlin, Harvey Smith,

and John Rose, were elected trustees; Godfrey Wolford, clerk, and D. O. Hamlin, treasurer.

The first couple married were Asa M. Lake and Charlotte M. Greer, and the second couple, William J. Greer and Rosanna Elder. Both couples were married by Joshua Hedges, J. P., of Findlay.

In 1828 or 1829, as John H. Greer, M. S. Hamlin, J. Greer and D. O. Hamlin were out at play, they came to where a tree had been blown out by the roots and in falling had left bare the skeleton of an Indian. Here they found a large amount of jewelry, consisting of finger rings, ear and nose rings, wristlets, breast plate, necklace, and quite a large nugget, which they supposed to be copper, all engraved with some French characters. Supposing the rings to be nothing but tin and of no particular value, they divided them equally among themselves as nearly as they could. There was a trading post established in what is now Wyandotte County, the agent of which, hearing of this find, sent word that if they would bring them to him, he would pay them all they were worth. M. S. Hamlin sent his portion of the property, for which he received seven dollars in money. The nugget laid around for a long time, pieces being frequently knocked off and it was finally lost. This was afterwards supposed by some to have been gold.

In 1830 John Greer and M. S. Hamlin, two lads, concluded that they would take a hunt and with their guns and ammunition, on a beautiful morning, they started on their way. After spending some time in the sport and securing what game they wanted, they started on their way home, but after travelling some time, and not reaching home, it became evident that they had lost their way. After a few moments of consultation, they agreed on the direction they would take, when, traveling until late in the afternoon, they came to an opening or clearing, when they found to their great surprise and disappointment, that they had arrived at Upper Sandusky. They then struck off on the old Indian trail. To reach home that night they knew was impossible, but they determined to go as far as they could. Just as the sun was setting, they came to an Indian wigwam. The old Indian and his squaw kindly took them in, administered to their wants and they had a good night's rest. The next morning the Indian pointed out the old trail to them, bade them God speed, and they resumed their weary tramp on their road home, where they arrived the same day.

CHAPTER XVI.

EAGLE, JACKSON, AND LIBERTY TOWNSHIPS.

EAGLE TOWNSHIP.

From the records of the county commissioners for the 3rd of December, 1832, we find that "a petition was presented by sundry citizens of the original Township 1 south, in Range 10 east, praying to be organized. Township 1 south, in Range 2 east, was accordingly set off, and formed into a body politic and corporate, and the said township shall be called Eagle."

Eagle Township contains 23,040 acres, and is bounded on the north by Liberty and Findlay, on the east by Jackson, on the south by Madison and Van Buren, and on the west by Union. It takes its name from the creek of the same name which runs through it, and is situated in the first range of townships south of the base line.

The first land entered in this township, was the west half of the northeast quarter of Section 35, by John Woodruff, on the first day of June, 1827. On the 6th day of June, 1829, Elijah Woodruff entered the northwest quarter of Section 13. These farms were afterward owned by William Yates and J. Alspach. On the 7th day of August of the same year, Phillip Heakes entered the lands afterward owned by the heirs of George Arnold in Section 12, and in November of the same year, George Bishop entered the northwest quarter of Section 24—for a long time the John D. Bishop farm and mill. The northwest quarter of Section 9 was entered by Joshua Hedges of Pickaway County, on the 28th of September, 1830, and on the 37th of November, in the same year, Shun Sager entered the west half of the southwest quarter of Section 31. In the latter part of the year 1831, entries were made in Sections 5, 6 and 8, by Jacob Powell, all of Fairfield County, Ohio, and by John Bright in Section 21. Other entries followed, and much of the land in this township was speedily taken up.

The soil of this locality, especially along the Eagle and Tiderishi Creeks, is of a rich sandy loam, and many very valuable farms are located along these creeks. In other parts of the township, a fertile clay predominates which produces good crops of corn, wheat, oats and grass. The surface is quite level, with a tendency to be rolling in the immediate vicinity of the creeks. From the begining of settlement here until within the last twenty years, this township, with others surrounding it, was the center of the "milk-sickness," elsewhere mentioned in this work. The timber was of the prevalent varieties mentioned in other parts of the county, such as walnut, ash, oak, sugar and

beech, etc. The timber and vegetation throughout the township was of a large growth.

Eagle Creek and Tiderishi, with their tributaries, furnish an abundance of water for stock and ample outlets for drainage in all parts of the township. Eagle Creek crosses the township from south to north, in the east part, and Tiderishi also from the south, pursuing a northwesterly course, passing out near the northwest corner. These streams, of course, are small, and yet Eagle Creek furnished waterpower for mill purposes for more than fifty years after the first settlement of the country. But by the clearing off of the forests, and the underdraining of the soil, the surplus water fall is now so quickly passed into the streams and flows away, that the time waterpower would be available, would not reimburse the investor for his expense, and consequently all of the water mills, not only in Eagle Township, but throughout the entire county, have been abandoned. Not one remains to tell the tale.

The first settlement made in this township was by John Woodruff in the latter part of 1829, and by John Decker, Benjamin Whitman, Conrod Line, Jacob Zolland, R. W. McClellen, in 1830. These pioneers were followed in 1831 by John D. Bishop, Elias Decker, Amos Crum and others. Most of these first settlers came from Fairfield and Franklin Counties. Whitman was from New York and McClellen was from Pennsylvania. The first settlements were on or near Eagle Creek in the eastern part of the township. The Nunamakers, Heldmans, Arris, Bormuths and others very soon afterward made settlement in the west part, and the Powells and others located on the Tiderishi, in the northwest corner. At the first election in 1833, when the township was organized, there were barely enough electors to fill the offices. Benjamin Whitman, Conrod Line, George Bishop, John Woodruff and John Decker were voters at the election.

The first schoolhouse built within the limits of the township was in the Bishop district in 1834. At that time Mr. John D. Bishop and Benjamin Whitman were the only taxpayers in the district. Rachel McBride taught the first school in this district. There are now nine substantial and comfortable school buildings in the township.

Until 1840, religious services were held in the residences and schoolhouses, no church buildings being erected in this township before that time. In 1840, the United Brethren Church erected a building on the farm of John Woodruff on the east bank of Eagle Creek. It was of hewn logs, small in dimensions, but large enough to accommodate all the religiously inclined of the sparse settlement. Among the first members of this society were Mrs. Woodruff, Conrod Line and wife, and some of the Deckers.

The first mill was known as Decker's hand mill, and here by a great deal of muscular power, corn could be ground fine enough for mush making. It was, however, a slow, laborious process. In 1830 George Bishop erected a saw-mill, and in 1833, a flouring-mill, on the site still known as Bishop's Mill. In 1854, John D. Bishop, who then owned the property, installed steam power, as the mill previous to that time had been propelled by water power. But after a few years' trial he became dissatisfied with this, and removed it, again returning to water power until the mill was abandoned about 1890. Perhaps no mill in the county was of more real benefit, when

mills were most needed, than was this one. Not only did the immediate neighborhood patronize it, but people came from a great distance to have their corn and wheat ground here.

Since 1840 the township has developed very rapidly and can boast of some of the richest farmers in the county. Beautiful residences and capacious barns, with other outhouses, were erected and the country has an appearance of wealth and comfort. The soil is rich and easily cultivated, and the people are engaged in the lucrative occupation of farming, and by their industry and proper economy are living bounteously and accumulating wealth. Most of the main roads are now piked and those not so will be soon, and in traveling over the township one can see on every hand evidences of contentment and prosperity.

In 1850 a post office named Clement was established on the Bellefontaine road about six miles south of Findlay, with Amos Crum as postmaster. Mr. Crum was succeeded by John Swank, who held the office until it was discontinued in 1864.

JACKSON TOWNSHIP.

On December 7, 1829, Charles McKinnis, John P. Hamilton, and Mordica Hammond, commissioners, received "A petition presented by sundry citizens of Amanda and Delaware Townships, praying for a new township, to be set off as follows, to-wit: Number 1, Range 11, south of the base line, into a body politic and corporate, and to be named Jackson, which was agreed to by said Board."

At the December session of the commissioners in 1836, it was "ordered that an election be held in Jackson Township, to elect a treasurer and three trustees for Section 16, on the 20th day of December, 1836, and that notices thereof be set up in three of the most public places in the township, that there are twenty electors in the said township, at the usual places of holding elections." It was also ordered "that Sections 3, 4, 5, and 6 in Township 1 south, Range 12 (now Biglick Township), and Sections 1, 12, 13, 24, 25 and 36, in Range Number 11, Township 1 south (now Jackson Township), be attached to Amanda Township."

Jackson Township now comprises Sections 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34 and 35, in township one south. It contains 19,200 acres, and was named in honor of Gen. Andrew Jackson, who was then President of the United States. It is bounded on the north by Marion and formerly a part of Findlay, on the east by Amanda, on the south by Delaware and Madison and on the west by Eagle Township.

Peter George made the first entry of land in the township on the 21st day of November, 1823, which entry was the east half of the northeast quarter of Section 35, afterwards owned by G. W. Krout. December 10, 1823, William Greer entered the east half of the southeast quarter of Section 35, afterwards owned by T. G. Hammond.

David Egbert entered the east half of the northeast quarter of Section 2, and in September of the same year Alpheus Ralston entered the southeast quarter of Section 7, upon which he soon afterwards settled and lived on it to his death some years ago. In

November of the same year George Bishop, of Franklin County, took up the southeast quarter of Section 7. These entries were followed by others made by Levi Williamson, William Newell, John Swank and others.

Judge Mordica Hammond, the first white man to settle in the township, came here in 1827, locating on the Blanchard River, in Section 35, there being no neighbors nearer than Mt. Blanchard; indeed but a very small portion of the land in the township had been entered at that time. The Judge resided at the time of his death, upon the same tract of land which he had reclaimed from the wilderness, and converted into a beautiful farm.

Judge Hammond was not long without neighbors. Peter George, William Greer, the Ecberts, Ralstons, Williamsons, Newells, the Missmores, the Treeses and others quickly followed.

This part of the county was heavily timberd with oak, elm, ash, sycamore, walnut, sugar and beech, a large part of which was wasted because of there being no market for it, and if there had been there were no means of transportation.

The soil is rich and productive, especially along the water courses. The population is a purely agricultural one, there being no manufacturing establishments of any moment in the township. There are many valuable farms and beautiful farm buildings here; the township is one of considerable wealth, and its people are industrious and energetic. The township is well drained by the Blanchard River, which passes through from south to north, and by its tributary creeks and runs. Wells which are easily dug or drilled in any part of the township, furnish a bountiful supply of wholesome water. The first schoolhouse was built in 1832, and the first school was taught by the past venerable Aquilla Gilbert. There were then no public school funds, and the compensation was one dollar and fifty cents per scholar, paid by voluntary subscription. The district included all of Jackson and Amanda Townships, and if the schoolmaster boarded around, as was then the fashion, he certainly had to spread himself over a good deal of territory.

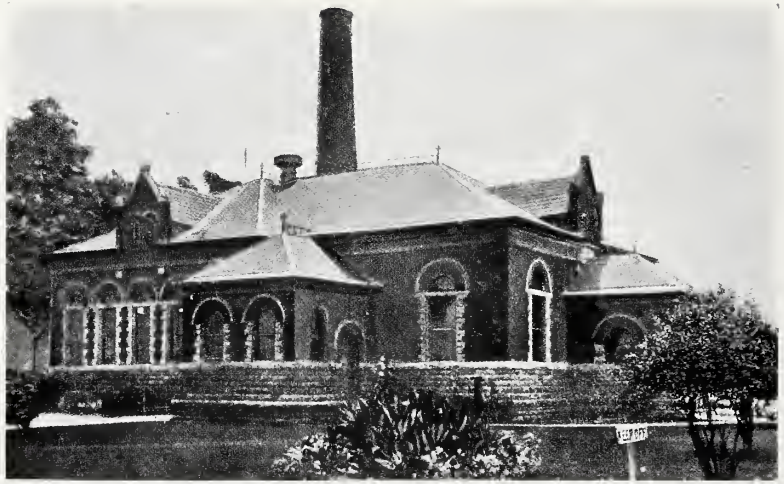
The first church was built in 1833. At an election held in the township in the same year there were ten votes cast.

A hand-mill owned by Godfrey Wolford, was the first in the township, and Mr. Gilbert used to say that he and Judge Hammond, with whom he resided during the winter of 1828-9, used to go to mill every other day to grind enough meal to feed the Judge's family. The first flouring-mill was built in 1835 by Michael Missmore, but as it was propelled by water, it was rather uncertain as a means of procuring bread in seasons of drought. But before the land was cleared of its timber the streams were less liable to floods and droughts, and the people were wont to make provisions for the short time of drought in summer by laying in a stock of meal and flour to tide them over. This Missmore mill was the first frame building erected in the township.

The markets for the first settlers were Portland and Sandusky City, but as was said by one of the old pioneers, it made but very little difference to them where the market was, as they had little to sell.

Aquilla Gilbert and L. P. Hamblin were

FINDLAY HIGH SCHOOL, FINDLAY



PUMPING STATION, RIVERSIDE PARK, FINDLAY

COUNTRY CLUB HOUSE, FINDLAY

ST. MICHAEL'S SCHOOL, FINDLAY

the first couple married in the township, Asa M. Lake, Esq., of Mt. Blanchard, officiating. Capt. Dan. Gilbert, their son, was the first white child born here. Capt. Dan. served through the Civil War in the noted Fifty-seventh O. V. I.

The first death was that of Mrs. Margaret Williams, wife of an old hunter and pioneer. Her remains were interred in what is now the Mt. Blanchard Cemetery.

Among the stalwart pioneers of Jackson Township was Levi Sampson, a man of limited education, but possessed of a large stock of good common sense, sterling integrity, and a perseverance that overcame all obstacles. His life, though one of labor and toil during the first years of his residence here, was so good naturedly enjoyed by him, and so cheerfully did he meet all the hardships and disappointments of pioneer life, that he was known among his neighbors as "Sunny Sampson." He became quite wealthy, and had a well improved farm and good buildings. In 1851, just previous to the adoption of the present State Constitution, he was appointed associate judge, in place of Michael Price, resigned. Judge Sampson died many years ago, sincerely regretted by his many friends and neighbors.

Alpheus Ralston was the son of William Ralston, and was born in Rockingham County, Va., in June, 1801. Whilst quite young his parents removed to Wood County, in the same state, but now West Virginia, where he remained until his twenty-fourth year. In 1826 he came to Ohio, and settled in Pickaway County, and in the same year was married. After a residence here of about four years, he sold out his possessions and coming to Hancock County in 1830, took up his residence in this township, on the same tract of land on which he lived the remainder of his life. At that time his nearest neighbor on the north was Mr. Chamberlain, three miles distant, and Mr. Woodruff, on the south, about the same distance. There were no neighbors on the east narer than the Blanchard River, six miles away; and Phillip Cramer on Tawa Creek, seven miles distant, was the nearest family west.

The Perrysburg and Bellefontaine road was not yet located or opened up, only a wagon track through the woods led to Findlay. Mr. Ralston was at the first election in the township, and with Aquilla Gilbert, Mordica Hammond, the Beards, and others, effected the organization of Jackson Township. His first near neighbors were the Williamsons. Mr. Ralston was the father of eight children, and his son LaFayette succeeded to the farm of his father.

Joseph Newell was born on July 6, 1808, in Shenandoah County, Va., and when six years old, came with his parents to what is now Fairfield County, Ohio. Here he remained until 1836, and was married here. In that year he came to this township and took up his residence on lands entered by him some years previously. Mr. Newell was one of the pioneer Methodists of the township. The year preceding his immigration here, a society had been organized by a Methodist itinerant, of which Mr. Newell's brother James, and two sisters and a Mrs. Bond were members. His wife became a member of the same society the year after they came here, and Mr. Newell

a few years later. The first church in the township was built on Mr. Newell's land, and there has been a church, and a regular preaching-place there from that day to the present. Mr. Newell raised a large family and provided liberally for them. He won and retained the friendship of his neighbors and was an honest citizen, a warm friend and consistent Christian. The early ministers, no matter to what denomination they belonged, always found a welcome at his house, and a cordial invitation to its hospitality.

George Treece was born in Pickaway County, Ohio, on January 9, 1827, and in November of the same year came to this county, his father's family locating in Jackson Township. Mr. Treece was one of the largest farmers and land owners in the township. He followed farming strictly during his active life, but the last ten years of his life lived retired in Findlay. His neighbors had great confidence in all he did or said.

The first company muster of the township was held at the house of Aquilla Gilbert, and the company—about fifty men in all—was composed of men from Amanda, Richland and Jackson Townships under the command of Capt. Godfrey Wolford and Lieutenants R. M. Hamblin and Josiah Elder.

Wild game was plenty in all parts of the township; the hunting of it was a source of profit as well as pleasure, and the table of the backwoodsman was scarcely ever without a supply of venison or bear steak, or a squirrel pot pie.

There are now eight school buildings in the township, nearly all of which are brick structures, and the enumeration of youths of school age, amounts to four hundred and ninety-six.

In 1863 a post office was established on the road from Findlay to Mt. Blanchard, about six miles from Findlay, and called Ewing's Corners, with Jesse Ewing as postmaster. The office was, however, discontinued after about eight years. Mr. Ewing was the only postmaster.

North Liberty or Houktown, as it is generally called, was laid out in April, 1853, on a part of Section 27, by J. F. Houk.

In 1867 John Doty and A. M. Houk made an addition of twenty-eight lots in addition to the original plat of fifteen by Mr. J. F. Houk, and in 1869, six more lots were added by Jacob Hoy.

The place never assumed very large proportions or very much importance. It never advanced beyond a cross-road village, and its business was entirely local, being confined to the trade of the immediate neighborhood. Its location is in a rich agricultural district, but remote from the railroad.

In 1856 a post office was established here, under the name of Houcktown, and some of the earlier postmasters were Robert Davidson, J. R. Babcock, John Garst, Israel Sampson, Eli Gorsuch, John Ebaugh, and David Beagle.

LIBERTY TOWNSHIP.

Liberty Township from the organization of the county in 1828, until December, 1830, was a part of the township of Findlay. At the session of the county commissioners, held in that month, present, Mordica Hammond, John P. Hamilton and Charles McKinnis, it was determined that it was necessary to divide the town-

ships of Marion and Liberty into three townships, by taking a strip two by six miles from the western side of Marion township and also a strip two by six miles from the eastern part of Liberty Township, and erecting a new township, Findlay. This township has an area of 15,360 acres.

The first entry of land in this township was made July 3, 1821, by Vance, Neil and Cory, of the southwest quarter of the southeast quarter of Section 8.

Between this time and 1830, the following persons entered land in this township: December 20, 1821, Robert and Charles McKinnis, John Gardner, Jacob Poe, Thomas Wilson, R. L. Strother, Alfred Hampton, John Hobbs, Richard Watson, Isaac Comer, and some others. The first settlement was made in the spring of 1821, by Jacob Poe, and in the fall by Robert McKinnis and his sons, Charles, James, Phillip and John. Some of the descendants of these pioneers still reside on the lands entered by their ancestors. These men were followed by Fishel and his sons, John, Michael and Daniel, and some grown up daughters; Johnson Bonham, John Boylan, Judge Ebenezer Wilson, William Fountain; Richard, William and George Watson; Isaac Strother, Nathan Frakes, Povenmire, John Price; the Radabaughs, Solomon Lee, Abraham Bails and others.

Liberty township was heavily timbered with walnut, ash, hickory, oak, sycamore, beech, sugar poplar and the ever present buckeye. No part of the land was without this heavy timber, and the immense forest trees of walnut, which was made into rails, or even burned up to make way for the plow, to say nothing of fine ash, oak or poplar, which would now be of incalculable value. Along the river, the soil is a rich black, sandy loam and silt, and on the ridges, sandy with a mixture of gravel. Between the ridge and the river, it is a rich vegetable loam, in places mixed with clay. On the north of the river, the prevailing soil is clay, and while not so good for the raising of corn, is excellent for wheat, grass and other crops, as well as fine grazing land. The principal crops are corn, wheat, oats and grass.

The Blanchard River crosses this township from east to west, furnishing an abundance of water for stock and affording a good outlet for under drainage. Formerly it also furnished water for two mills—known as Heck's and Croninger's—for a considerable part of the year, and at which the people got their wheat and corn ground into flour and meal. The river bottom lands are exceedingly rich and productive, but are subjected to occasional overflow, by which crops and fences are damaged more or less.

On the north side we have Watson's, Wilson's, Grassy and Worden's Runs, small wet-weather streams, whose channels furnish good drainage for the adjacent lands. There are several springs along Watson's and Wilson's runs, which keep them supplied with water the year around. On the south side Comer's Run enters the river on the Dye farm, and is the only creek of any importance on that side. None of these creeks furnish waterpower now. There was for a number of years a sawmill on Comer's Run on the old Povenmire farm, just south of the Findlay and Kalida State road, but that has long since been abandoned. On the farm of Nelson Poe, and some forty or fifty feet from the river, is what the people in the neighborhood call a sink hole, that is the water disappears in the ground, and is not seen again until it is emptied into the river.

The first church building in the township was the Blanchard Church on the Ewing farm, on Defiance road, which was built by the Presbyterians in 1850. The congregation, however, previous to that time, held services in private houses, and in the schoolhouse in the neighborhood. The society was organized in 1832 by Rev. Peter Monfort. The first state minister, the late Rev. George VanEmon was at the same time pastor of the church in Findlay. Of the first membership we find the names of Judge Wilson and wife, William Coen, wife and two daughters, Jacob Poe and wife, and Mrs. Judge McKinnis. The following story will illustrate the strictness of church rules, and their enforcement in years gone by:

In early days produce of various kinds was transported to market by being floated down the Blanchard, Auglaize and Maumee Rivers to Perrysburg or Toledo. Mr. William Taylor was in trade at Findlay, and desiring to make a trip, had his fleet of canoes loaded, waiting for a rise in the river, in order to set out on his voyage. After waiting a few days, the favorable time to start came on Sunday and Mr. Taylor being impatient by delays, shoved off his canoes, and silently, perhaps, floated down the peaceful Blanchard, never intending any disrespect to the day or the church. But the church dignitaries could not overlook so flagrant a breach of church regulations and Bible commands, and Mr. Taylor was cited to appear and answer, and to show cause why he should not be visited with penalties of his disobedience. Having presented himself, answered, and confessed, he was forgiven.

The first schoolhouse in the township was built in 1832 on the farm formerly owned by John Reed, Esq. Richard Wade was the first teacher. There are now eight school houses in the township, the most of which are commodious buildings. There are one Evangelical, one United Brethren, one Christian Union, and one Presbyterian Church building, in the township. Each of these churches has a flourishing Sunday school attached, under the charge of efficient and zealous superintendents.

John Byal at an early day built a flour and lumber mill near the present site of the infirmary, these being the first mills in the township. The flour mill was run by water. The machinery was moved by a large overshot, wooden wheel, which kept splashing and creaking all day, and about which there was to the boys always a charming atmosphere of coolness and a capital place for fishing. The water pouring over the dam, not in a rush, but slowly, and at times almost noiselessly, the slow but continued movement of the old wooden wheel, the long drawn-out screech of the wooden machinery of the mill, the quiet movements of the miller—all combined to produce a lazy feeling that affected the boys who sprawled out on the grassy bank of the river, near the old dam, so that it required something pretty exciting to fully arouse them. In about 1844 Miller Johnson built a saw-mill at the site of the Holden Mill, and in about 1853 Amos Hartman, now of Iowa, built a flouring mill at the same place, both of which are gone.

The early settlers suffered much from the wolves, which were very plentiful and also very destructive, killing sheep, hogs and even young cattle. Near where the Blanchard Church now stands Mr. Poe had some young cattle killed by the wolves. Numbers of wolves were killed for their scalps, for which the State paid a bounty.

Indian Green, Plum Orchard, and the Indian burying ground are familiar landmarks in this

township. Of the Indian Green, it was said by early settlers, that quite a considerable tract of land on the north of the river had been partially cleared, on which the Indians had a burying ground, and perhaps a village, and certainly some kind of fortifications or earth works. In addition to this there were several acres of lands along the river bottoms which had not only been cleared, but cultivated, as every indication plainly showed.

Whether the presence of so many plum trees was the work of the Indians or of that eccentric person already alluded to—Johnny Appleseeds—will perhaps never be known. The fact remains, however, that they were here, and among them were also a number of good apple trees. The Indian burying ground was frequently visited by members of their tribe—the Ottawas—and at one time a white man by the name of Ellison with his family settled on this ground. Ellison dug up quite a number of skeletons and opened graves for such trinkets as were buried with the dead. This coming to the ears of the Indians, they visited the place and were so emphatic in their denunciation of the vandalism, that Ellison thought it prudent to quit the premises, which he did. This plum orchard and burying ground covered some twelve acres or more.

Among the earliest settlers of this township was also Jacob Poe, a hardy specimen of the backwoodsman. He was a relative of the celebrated Indian fighters, Adam and Andrew Poe, and was possessed of the physical strength and courage attributed to those celebrated brothers. He lived to a good old age, respected and honored.

John Boylan, for more than forty years a resident here came from Newark, Licking County, Ohio, in 1832. He was one of the first school teachers in the county. He was also a local preacher of the Methodist Church, and one of its earliest members in the county. As a minister he was fervent and touching in his appeals, and powerful in his exhortations. After his long residence here he went west, and became a resident of Iowa.

Richard Watson, another early settler, was a good neighbor, an enterprising citizen and honest in all his dealings. He died leaving to his children a fine farm, which he had reclaimed from the wilderness. Mr. Watson, though a strong partisan of the Democratic school of politics, did not attempt to impertinently intrude his opinions on others. He held the office of coroner of the county for one or two terms.

Isaac Comer came to this township from Fairfield County and located on the farm now owned by J. B. Wagner, about four miles west of Findlay on the Benton Road. Mr. Comer was a large, jolly, good-natured man, frank in all his sayings, kind and generous in his acts, and honest and prompt in his dealings. He was universally liked and his death was sincerely regretted.

The Rev. Geo. Van Emon may well be claimed by this township, as nearly all his life in this county was spent here. As a minister he was sincere, and his words carried conviction with them. As a Christian he was blameless; as a neighbor kind and hospitable. He was a citizen whose example might be safely followed.

William Fountain, or the "Old Man Fountain," as he was familiarly called, came to the county in 1830, and settled in this township, on lands on which he resided for nearly fifty years, and up to the time of his death. Of an unassuming and retired disposition, attentive to his own affairs, taking little part in public

matters, his acquaintance was never very extensive. But no man in his neighborhood was more highly respected, or considered more trustworthy. Mr. Fountain came from Franklin County and lived to be almost a centenarian. He was born in Caroline County, Md., January 6, 1784, of Irish descent, and was the second of three brothers. In 1809 he was married to Sarah Barton, by whom he had five children. Mrs. Fountain died in 1821 and Mr. Fountain married Mrs. Rebecca Smith, with whom he lived until the time of her death, a period of more than forty years. Mr. Fountain sold his farm in Franklin County and came to Hancock, taking up his residence on the farm on which he died. At the time of his death he was the oldest person in the county.

At the time of the great gas boom in Findlay, in 1887, and the town was building up rapidly and extending its boundaries, the City Council took into the corporation the entire extent of Findlay Township, four by six miles. The city corporation tax being burdensome to the farmers included, one by one or in bunches they applied to be transferred from city to country. As Findlay Township had been disposed of by former enactment, the farms lying west of Main street, and what is known as the Bellefontaine and Perrysburg road through the county, were assigned to their original location in Liberty Township, and in like manner those lying east of said road, which included Main Street in Findlay, were assigned to Marion Township. In this way fully two-thirds of the lands included in Findlay Township originally, and later to the corporation of Findlay, were returned to the two townships out of which Findlay Township was formed.

A large portion of this township has been very prolific in the production of petroleum, and the Standard Oil Company have very valuable leases and property by way of tank farms, pumping stations, and pipe lines located in Liberty Township. Also a great many of the farmers have reaped substantial benefits from the royalty falling to their share of the fortunate find, and a goodly number have retired to a quiet life on the proceeds, many of them moving to the town of Findlay, where as good citizens they are enjoying the evening of a well spent life.

There were no towns ever laid out in Liberty Township, and nothing of a public nature except the County Infirmary has been located therein. Almost all the roads in this township are well piked and in a good condition for travel the entire year.

CHAPTER XVII.

MADISON, MARION AND ORANGE TOWNSHIPS.

MADISON TOWNSHIP.

This township had its origin in 1840, when at the June session of the county commissioners, it was "ordered that Section Nos. 1, 2, 11, 12, 13, 14, 23, 24, 25, 26, 35 and 36 in Township 2 south, Range 10 east, and Sections 5, 6, 7, 8, 17, 18, 19, 20, 29, 30, 31 and 32 in Township 2 south, Range 11 east, to be set off and constituted as a new township, called Madison." The twelve sections first mentioned were formerly a part of Van Buren Township, and the last twelve mentioned as being in Range 11 were taken from Delaware Township.

This township was named in honor of James Madison, fourth President of the United States. It lies on the south side of the county, and is bounded on the north by Eagle and Jackson Townships, on the east by Delaware, on the south by Hardin County, and on the west by Van Buren Township. Its area is 15,360 acres.

The soil for the most part consists of a compact clay subsoil, covered with a vegetable mold. Along the streams may be found small areas of alluvial land, which is very fertile. The soil in the wet lands consists of a deep black loam, which is very productive when properly drained. Generally speaking the lands of this township can be considered as only moderately fertile.

The timber in this part of the county was hard and soft maple, beech, hickory and ash. The different varieties of oak were abundant in all parts of the township. Black walnut, blue ash and red elm was found along the streams. On the wet lands were black ash and sycamore. This part of the county was very heavily timbered.

Although the township can all be well drained, there are but few streams of water, and they are not of much importance as water courses. Eagle Creek, which is formed by the junction of what is called the east and west branches, which unite about eighty rods northeast of the southwest corner of Section 14, and thence take their course as one creek. Flat Branch is so called on account of the small amount of fall it has. It drains the southeastern part of the township, and is a tributary of the East Branch. Buck Run is in the northeast part, and empties into Eagle Creek, near the north line of the township. The West Branch of Eagle Creek rises in the Hog Creek Marsh in Hardin County, and the East Branch rises near the Hardin County Line.

On the first day of June, 1829, Abel Tanner made entry of the west half of the northwest quarter of Section 23, and on the same day William Y. Woodruff entered the northeast quarter of Section 2. These were the first entries of land in the township.

Squire Carlin on the 9th day of July, 1829, entered the west half of the southwest quarter of Section 11. John Longworth, of Pickaway County, entered the east half of the northeast quarter of Section 5, on the 5th of May, 1830, and in September of the same year, Chancy Rickets entered the east half of the southwest quarter of Section 2. In November, 1832, the northeast quarter of the southeast quarter of Section 5, was entered by Alexander Grant, of Franklin County.

In October, 1834, Robert Hurd and Robert Shaw, both of Portage County, made entries of land in Section 7, and Henry Imhoof, of Stark County, entered the west half of the northwest quarter of Section 6. Other entries speedily followed, and settlements were made in many portions of the township.

According to the most authentic information, Simeon Ramsbottom was the first to settle in this township, though Abel Tanner and Abner Hill came the same year. Tanner came in February, 1825, from near Kenton, Ohio, where he had resided for three years previous. He and his wife were both natives of Rhode Island. He located on the banks of the West Branch of Eagle Creek, near where Gen. Hull camped as he passed through in 1813. Mr. Tanner died in 1833, aged forty-two years, and his wife died three years later. Simeon Ramsbottom settled on the west bank of Eagle Creek, two miles below Tanner. He was a native of Virginia. His wife was born in Ireland. Mr. Ramsbottom died in 1851, his wife having died many years previously.

The family of Abner Hill consisted of himself, his wife and step-daughter. He resided in the township for many years. He committed burglary by breaking into Carlin's Mill at Findlay, for which exploit he was sent to the penitentiary, and was the first person consigned to that institution from this township, or perhaps from the county.

Settlements were very soon after made by Jacob Helms, Benjamin Sparr, Andrew Rickets, John Diller, N. B. Martz, J. W. Williams and others, and farms were opened up all over the township. When N. B. Martz came to this township in 1834, he found a man by the name of John Diller living in Section 11, on lands which he had bought of a Mr. Moreland, who claimed he had purchased them from Simeon Ramsbottom. Mr. Martz said that it was his impression that Ramsbottom was the first settler within the present limits of Madison Township, and that John Tullis came with him. He said also that, from the appearance of the buildings, clearings, and fruit trees when he first saw the Diller's and other places, he was led to believe that the first settlement had taken place at least ten years before that visit.

The Methodists erected the first church building in the township at Arlington, in 1858. It must not be supposed that religious worship was unknown prior to this time, or that no minister had visited this region. Here as elsewhere the schoolhouses and private houses were used as places of

worship. There are now four church buildings in the township; two Methodist Episcopal, one Protestant Methodist and one Disciple.

The first schoolhouse built in the township was on the land now occupied as the German Lutheran Cemetery, at the west line of the township. It was of the usual style, of logs, with clapboard roof. There are now eight school buildings, all comfortable and commodious. The first hotel, or tavern, as such places were then called, was kept by John Diller, and was located on the west bank of Eagle Creek, at the place now known as Waterloo. This tavern was called the Cross Keys.

The people of this township devote themselves to agricultural pursuits, and are a peaceable, quiet and thrifty community. Education and respect for the law commands the attention of all. The first settlers were principally from the eastern part of the State and from Pennsylvania. There are, however, quite a number of Germans and their descendants. John W. Williams, one of the early settlers, and proprietor of the village of Williamstown, who died about thirty years ago, at a ripe old age, was perhaps at the time of his death the oldest person in the township. Mr. Williams was postmaster for many years, and was ten times elected justice of the peace. He commanded the confidence and respect of his neighbors, and had many sincere friends.

Christian Welty, an early resident here, was one of those substantial men who sought a home in the then far west. He was a man of good judgment, sound mind and strict integrity.

Andrew Rickets, after a long and useful life, died about 1878, leaving his family a goodly inheritage, accumulated by industry and frugality. His widow, a very estimable lady, and a fair specimen of the goodly dames of the early years of this county, resided and died in Findlay, respected by all who knew her. Mr. Rickets, besides holding several township offices, was for two terms, a commissioner of the county, and filled the office with both ability and fidelity. Robert Hurd, who came to this township in 1839, was born at East Haddam, Conn., March 16th, 1785, and emigrated to Portage County, Ohio, in 1820, and settled in Twinsburg Township, as agent for the brothers, Aaron and Moses Wilcox—twins—from whom the township derived its name. Mr. Hurd made extensive entries of land in and about the present site of the town of Arlington, in 1834, and his sons, William B. and Lorenzo, and son-in-law, Joseph Fitch, at once settled on part of these lands, then all in the wilderness. Mr. Hurd laid out the town of Arlington, and was active in the formation of the township of Madison. For a number of years Mr. Hurd held the office of justice of the peace. He frequently appeared in justice's courts as an attorney, conducting his case with great ability. He died at Arlington in the year 1861.

Napoleon B. Martz was the son of Michael Martz, and was born in Rockingham County, Va., in November, 1809. He came to Hancock County in 1834, and settled on the farm afterwards owned by his son Dorillas. He was married in November, 1830, to Hannah Nicolls, who accompanied him through the journey of life. Mr. Martz was a resident of the county for forty-one years, when he went still farther west, settling in Douglas County, Ill., where he spent the remainder of his in-

dustrious life. Mr. Martz' grandparents were from Bavaria, hence his German extraction. He was a man of excellent morals and business integrity, although not a member of any church denomination. He had a fair English education, and strong common sense. His opinions were the result of careful thought, and his advice was sought by his neighbors. Honest, intelligent, social and accommodating, he easily won, and always held the esteem of his neighbors.

MARION TOWNSHIP.

The records of the county commissioners for the session of the 6th day of December, 1830, show the following entry: "It appearing to this Board necessary to divide the townships of Findlay and Amanda into three townships after the following manner, to-wit: Beginning at the southwest corner of Section 31, in Township 1 north, in Range 12, running thence north to the northwest corner of Section 6, in Township 2, in Range 12, thence west to the northwest corner of Section 4, in Range 11, thence south to the southwest corner of Section 33, in Township 1 north, in Range 11, thence east to the place of beginning, which boundary shall be a separate township, and become a body corporate and politic, and shall be known and designated as Marion." The township was named in honor of the dashing South Carolina Ranger, Gen. Francis Marion, of Revolutionary fame, and is bounded on the north by Cass Township, on the east by Big Lick, on the south by Amanda and Jackson and on the west by Liberty and partly by Findlay corporation, and contains about thirty-four square miles.

This township was formerly very heavily timbered with oak, walnut, ash, elm, poplar, beech and sugar maple, together with other trees.

The soil in the northern part of the township is a productive clay, somewhat rolling and well drained, and brings forth fine crops. The river bottoms are exceedingly rich and productive, being a rich sandy loam, and the south end of the township has a soil of very rich, sandy loam. The conditions for the agriculturist are almost ideal and Marion Township farmers are among the princes of the land.

The township is well watered and drained by the Blanchard River and its tributary creeks, Wolf Creek, Prairie Run and Lye Creek. The river enters the township in Section 35, and running a direct course to the north for three miles, where it makes a sudden turn and takes a direct course to the west to the western boundary. Formerly there were mills located on this stream, one three miles east of Findlay, Marvin's and one about six miles from Findlay, known as the Marvin mill. At the present time they are a thing of the past.

Elnathan Cory made the first entry of lands on the 28th day of November, 1822, of the northeast quarter of the northeast quarter of Section 21. On the 24th day of October, Alexander Robertson entered the south part of the northeast quarter of Section 23. Jonas Hartman, of Pickaway County, entered the southeast quarter of Section 24, on the 28th day of April, 1830, and on the 15th day of October of the same year, Rezin Rickets, of Seneca County, entered the west half of the southeast quarter of Section 15. December 28th, 1830, Allen Wisely entered the east half of the southwest quarter of Section 14. Following these were entries made by Jacob Iler, of Pickaway County, Joseph Orwig, Daniel Egbert, Major Bright, of Fairfield County, Nimrod Bright

and John Leeder, of Pennsylvania, Isaac Jones, of Richland County, and others.

Marion Township's first settlers were Asher Wickham, Joseph Sargeant and Othniel Wells. These parties settled near the western line of the township—Asher Wickham on the George Burns farm, now owned by Banker E. C. Taylor; Joseph Sargeant on the T. J. Burns place two miles east on the East Sandusky Street road, where it forks with the East Main Cross Street road, and Wells on the Charles Thomas farm at the north end of the bridge crossing the river three miles east of Findlay.

Very shortly after, Allen Wisely, Major Bright, Aaron Baker, Lewis Thomas and others commenced improvement in different parts of the township. Major Bright became the owner of a large tract of land. He at one time held the office of Associate Judge for this county. He was a long resident of the township, and some of his descendants still live in this and Big Lick Township. Perhaps no man in the township was better known, or more generally respected than was Allen Wisely. He owned a very valuable farm on the New Haven road just east of the center of the township, that was well improved and delightfully located. The first church edifice erected in the township was the old Baptist Church opposite the Davis residence, on the Tiffin road. Some years later another hewed log church was built about forty rods west of this, and was used for all orthodox denominations to hold services in. Both of these have long since disappeared but on the spot of the last mentioned stands a very comfortable frame building known as the Union Bethel, where, as before, all denominations worship. In quite an early day there was built on Section 27 a small log church, to which was given the name of Bethlehem, and where the pioneers held service until about 1850 when it was replaced by a frame structure; this in turn gave way to a handsome brick edifice which serves the people of the present day. Besides there is a church in the eastern part of the township known as Mt. Zion. These two churches are both of the United Brethren denomination.

The first schoolhouse in the township was built on William Marvin's farm, in 1836, and the first school was taught by Adam Robinson. There are now seven good school buildings in the township, all brick, and the enumeration of school children amounts to four hundred and twenty-eight.

In April, 1831, occurred the first election. Asher Wickham, Joseph Sargeant, Allen Wisely, John Dewitt, Lewis Ward, Joseph Johnston, Aaron Baker, Major Bright, Adam Beard, Justin Smith, Henry Powell, Edward Bright and O. Wells, were the voters. The immigration to this townshiup came largely from Fairfield County, Ohio.

In 1837 Daniel Opp put up a frame building on the farm now owned by N. A. Morrison, close to the township house, and commenced tavern keeping. A postoffice was also established at this place, and called Crow, with Mr. Opp as postmaster. After about two years, Mr. Opp died, and since then there has been no postoffice in the township.

In 1851, when the writer of this was seven years old, his father's family moved from Carroll County, Ohio, and settled on a farm in Section 10 of this township, and although there had been numerous improvements made, the country was largely uncleared, undrained with no made roads, only the natural ways cut through the woods and along the clearings, with corduroy—logs laid side by side—

through the swampy places and even at that time there was but one frame house in the township, that being the one still standing on E. C. Taylor's farm, in Section 21.

Marion Township has a special pike tax and the citizens in consequence have the benefit of very fine roads. The material for building these roads has been largely taken from a stone quarry owned and operated by Charles S. Johnston living on the Mt. Blanchard road on the banks of Lye Creek. Many miles of stone road has already been made of stone taken out of this quarry, and the supply is inexhaustible for all time to come of the very best material known in the county.

William Marvin and sons owned and operated a saw and grist-mill on the Blanchard River, three miles east of Findlay along in the early fifties. This was sold to William Gillespie and the Marvins built a flouring mill and distillery one half mile farther up the river where the residence of Guy Grable now stands. This mill did a good business in custom grinding and whisky was made out of corn and rye, of a quality that it is impossible to obtain at the present day.

ORANGE TOWNSHIP.

Orange Township had its genesis December 6th, 1836, when the commissioners of Hancock County ordered as follows: "That the original surveyed township Number 2 south, Range 9, in Hancock County, Ohio, be set off into a separate township, politic and corporate, and named Orange. Ordered that the voters be notified thereof, to meet on the third Tuesday in December, A. D., 1836, to elect township officers."

This township is in the southwest corner of the county, and retains its original limits of thirty-six sections, comprising 23,040 acres. It is bounded on the north by Union Township, on the east by Van Buren, on the south by Hardin County, and on the west by Allen County.

The face of the country in this township is generally level, although it has sufficient undulation to render drainage easy and abundant. While the northern part is quite flat, the center and southern portion is beautifully rolling. The soil is varied, but very fertile in all parts of the township. In the northern part was what was called "the marsh," a low, wet tract, formerly utterly unfit for cultivation, until by the expenditure of a large sum of money in ditching and draining, it became one of the richest tracts of sand and vegetable mould in all the county. In other parts of the township the soil is of loam, sand or clay, and sometimes of all combined, but in no part of the township is the soil poor or unproductive. The crops produced are of the principal cereals and vegetables, in abundance and of the best quality, thus showing the varied richness of the soil.

The outlets for drainage are the branches of Riler and Tawa Creeks, both of which flow into the Blanchard River, those of Riley running westward by way of Bluffton and those of Tawa running northward by way of Benton Ridge.

Henry L. Dally, of Tuscarawas County, made the first entry of lands in this township, being that of the southeast quarter of Section 19. This entry was made May 1st, 1834. On the 12th of June, 1834, William Bryan of Richland County, Ohio, entered the south half of Section 6, afterward owned by Beriah Ewing, R. Greer and A. Kimmell—Sopher Ewing, son of B. Ewing now owns his father's farm—David Thompson, of Stark County, Ohio, entered

the northeast quarter of twenty—afterward owned by Asa Battles who became a prominent man of the township—and Samuel Thompson, of Columbiana County, entered the west part of the southeast quarter of Section 22. In September of the same year, George McManima, of Richland County, entered the south half of the southeast quarter of Section 17. In August of the same year, John Stump, of Seneca County, took up the northwest quarter of Section 18—afterward owned by Thomas Murray, of Bluffton.

In October, 1834, John Carnahan, of Putnam County, entered the west half of the southeast quarter of Section 7, and Henry Atler, of Pennsylvania, entered the southeast quarter of Section 19, and Joseph Morrison, also of Pennsylvania, entered the northeast quarter of Section 19, and in November, 1834, Simeon Dudgeon, of Knox County, entered the southeast quarter of Section 21. These entries were followed by others, and in a very few years all of the land in the township was taken up.

It is said that in 1833, Henry L. Dally, David Thompson and William Bryan came here and were the first settlers of the township. At that time, and for several years afterwards, the Wyandot Indians claimed the country as a part of their hunting grounds, and were frequent visitors to the cabins of the palefaces, but, as they were peaceably disposed, and honest, they were welcome.

The first settlers were followed by Stump, Shaw, the Battles, the McKinleys, the Marshalls, John Hassan, William Agin, E. S. Crawford, James T. McConnell, James Reed and others, who formed settlements in various parts of the township. James built the first frame building in the township, and James T. McConnell built the first brick one. The first election was by order of the commissioners, in the fall of 1836, at which there were fourteen votes cast. Every voter was elected to an office in the township.

The pioneers of this township early appreciated the blessing of education, and were not unmindful of the moral and religious training of their children, and as a consequence, churches and school houses followed in the wake of the settlement. Next to shelter for themselves and families, they provided these other necessaries to civilization, good order and prosperity. The first schoolhouse was built in 1837. There are nine good schoolhouses in the township, with an enrollment of about five hundred youths of school age. In the early days, teachers in the common schools received fifty cents a day, and boarded around with the families, a week at each place, and were in many families expected to sleep with the children, and have control of them from the time they left home in the morning until they returned at night. The reading of that day was confined principally to the Bible, common school books and occasionally a newspaper. But these, however, were quite sufficient to occupy their leisure hours, which were but few, so busy were they in building cabins, clearing up the ground for cultivation, and assisting their neighbors to do the same.

The Episcopal Church of North America erected the first church building in the township in 1837. There are now quite a number of comfortable places of worship in the township.

The first marriage was that of George McManima, and a Miss Morrison, both of whom have long since passed away, and no known descendants of this union are now residents of this towship. David Thompson was the first

white child born in Orange Township, and a Mrs. Ivers, who died in 1838, was the first person who died within its limits.

The first mill was built by John Stump, and there was great rejoicing amongst the inhabitants at its completion, as previously the burden of obtaining flour had been a great inconvenience to the people, owing to the distance to be traveled and the almost impassable condition of the roads, if roads they might be called.

John McKinley, one of the pioneers of Orange Township, was born in Westmoreland County, Pa., September 23, 1801, and at the age of two years came with his father, William McKinley, to Trumbull County, Ohio, then on the frontier of civilization. On the 13th of March, 1823, he was married to Mary Marshall, and in August, 1836, he and his family came to Hancock County. The country was entirely destitute of roads, and Mr. McKinley had to cut his way through the woods to the place where he afterwards resided, camping at night in the wilderness through which he passed. Not in the least discouraged, he at once went to work, and with the assistance of his sons, then mere lads, and the encouragement and assistance of his good wife, he soon opened up a good farm. He lived on this farm until reaching the age of eighty-five, bearing the reputation of being honest in his dealings, frugal, but not stingy, and hospitable alike to neighbors and strangers. Mr. McKinley was present at the organization of the township, and was one of the fifteen voters present. He held the office of justice of the peace for twelve years, and the office of county commissioner for six years. Quite a number of his descendants are still living in the same neighborhood.

Henry L. Dally came to this township from Tuscarawas County in 1833, and his was the first family that settled in this part of the county. The family consisted of himself, wife, four sons and four daughters. The country was entirey new, and they had no neighbors within three or four miles. Mr. Dally was a tall, muscular man, inured to hardships, industrious and honest in all his dealings, and a good neighbor. He located on and cleared up a farm in Section 36. He and most of his family were members of the Disciples Church. After remaining here for nearly twenty years, he became restive, and finally, in 1850, he emigrated to Iowa, and again he became a frontiersman, and was lost to the people of this county.

Isaac Thompson was the second of ten children of David Thompson, a farmer, who came here from Stark County. Isaac was born in Marlboro Township of that county, February 25, 1828, and when five years of age, was brought to this township by his father's family. This family was the second to settle here. As Benjamin Marshall, a pioneer of Union Township, and Josiah Dunlap were coming to this county on horseback, they overtook David Thompson twenty-five miles this side of Bucyrus, O., traveling to his goal on foot, barefooted and bare-headed. They proffered him the aid of money to buy shoes and a hat, but were met by the response that he had plenty money to buy shoes, and as to a hat he declared that he never wore one.

Young Thompson commenced life in the woods, amid all the ups and downs of a frontier residence. He has always followed the independent occupation of a farmer, and became the owner of a very valuable farm of 280 acres, well improved and very productive. Mr. Thompson has a fair common school educa-

tion, although his entire attendance at school was only fifteen months, and that after he was fifteen years old. He is a man of good natural ability, good business tact, and safe councilor, and his advice and assistance in business matters is sought by his neighbors, with whom he stands high. In October, 1850, he married Louisa McKinley, by whom he had six children, all living.

Mr. Thompson is a member of the Disciples Church, and has been for about forty-three years. His Christian life has conformed to his profession. He is very punctillious in all his business transactions; honest, conscientious and faithful in the discharge of all his duties; firm in his convictions of right, not easily turned aside from what he deems to be right. He has resided continuously in this township since he came here in 1833, and has never been absent from it more than a month at a time. He has been present at every election held in the township, the first of which was held at his father's house. Such is the confidence reposed in him by his neighbors, that he has been called upon to fill almost all the offices in his township. In 1908 he was called on to make a speech at a school reunion, and all present were delighted with the remarks of a man of eighty years old, hale and hearty.

James T. McConnell was born in Pennsylvania in 1809, and came to Orange Township in 1838, and at once commenced clearing up a farm in Section 11. He resided for some years in Jefferson County, Ohio, where, in 1830, he was married to Eliza Dunlevy. Mrs. McConnell died in February, 1862. Mr. McConnell was the father of twelve children, three of whom are still living, Daniel J. and James C. residing in Findlay, and Patrick in Union County. Mr. McConnell always followed the occupation of farming. He had a fair common school education, and was a member of the Presbyterian Church for more than thirty years, and was one of the first members in this township. He was a man of strong convictions, slow to yield a point, and tenacious in his belief. He was a good neighbor, and an honest man. At his death he left a beautiful farm of 160 acres, well improved by his own labor and industry. His first neighbors were John McKinley, Benjamin Marshall, father of John W. Marshall, now residing on Lima Avenue, Willard Boutwell, E. R. Burns, William Ivers, and Thomas Walls; all of whom have passed to the other shore.

On the farm which he cleared up, are to be found some interesting relics of the past. At about the center of the farm is what appears to be an ancient fortification. The earth is thrown up in the shape of a mound or ridge, about thirty feet wide at the top, and scooped out or excavated, the location commanding a view of the surrounding country. In and around this the timber was evidently removed, as the growth of trees, when discovered, was much smaller than that in the forest surrounding. About twenty rods east of this was a mound higher than any other portion of the ridge, and from bones and other articles found in this mound, was evidently the burial place of the dead of those who built the mounds. In the immediate vicinity are other mounds of similar character, all no doubt built by the same people and for the same purpose.

The Northern Ohio Railroad, on its route from Bluffton to Jenera, passes through Orange Township, east and west, on which there are two stations, El Rose and Cordelia. But the farmers do almost all their trading at the two places first named.

Owing to the richness of the soil in this township, the natural roads remained too hard to travel for a good part of the year, as very little had been done by the county in building pike roads. In April, 1896, a special act from the legislature of the State was obtained through the then representative, J. A. Kimmell, empowering the people of this township to levy a special tax for the purpose of improving their roads by the building of stone pike. Considerable opposition was made to the passage of the act on the grounds that such legislation was unconstitutional and that the payment of the levy could be enjoined by any citizen of the township. Nevertheless the bill passed, and the people of the township stood up to it to a man, with the results that today Orange Township has the best and prettiest roads of any township in the county. As one drives along these thoroughfares with a fine pike on one side of it and a fine summer road on the other, lined with beautiful shade trees on both sides, together with the fine buildings of the thrifty farmers with their orchards and gardens of vegetables and flowers, one can imagine he is driving along some grand avenue through some nobleman's estate in a foreign country. The transition that has taken place in these matters since forty years ago seemed like a dream to the writer as he lately passed over the township within the last year. It is certainly a beautiful place to reside in, and the people are to be congratulated upon their pluck and energy in placing it in the condition it is found today.

CHAPTER XVIII.

PLEASANT, PORTAGE, UNION, VAN BUREN AND WASHINGTON TOWNSHIPS. AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS.

PLEASANT TOWNSHIP.

It was ordered by the county commissioners, at their session March 2, 1835, "that the original surveyed Township Number 2 north, in Range 9 east, be laid off and formed in a body politic and corporate, and designated Pleasant Township." Previous to this date it had been a part of Blanchard Township. This township lies in the northwest corner of the county, and is bounded on the north by Wood County, on the east by Portage Township, on the south by Blanchard Township and on the west by Putnam County. It derives its name, no doubt, from its pleasant location and scenery, and is an original township of thirty-six sections. Its area is 23,040 acres; population 2,024.

The soil of Pleasant Township is a rich black loam, on a clay subsoil. On the ridges, or higher lands, it is much mixed and mostly made up of sand and gravel. The entire body of land in this township is rich and very productive. The timber of the virgin forests was very abundant and valuable, but for reasons heretofore mentioned gave small returns to the owners. Some small tributaries of the Portage River furnish ample facilities for drainage of the lands, which are completely underdrained with tile. Many of the inhabitants are supplied with water for domestic use from wells drilled into the underlying rock.

John Algire, of Fairfield County, made the first entry of land in this township, the northeast quarter of Section 31 being bought by him March 15, 1833. On the 20th day of April, the same year, Alexander Kilpatrick, of Hardin County, entered the northwest quarter of the southwest quarter of Section 31. Edward Stevenson, of Franklin County, entered the west half of the northeast quarter of Section 27, and on the same day John J. Needles of the same county entered the east half of the northeast quarter of the same section. On the 19th day of October, 1833, John McCulloch, of Jefferson County and William Woods, of Washington County, Pa., entered lands in Section 28, and on the same day Eliakim Crosby entered the west half of Section 29. Jacob Lamb, of Fairfield County, entered the southeast quarter of Section 30, and George Kalb entered the west half of the northeast quarter of Section 26, on the 2nd day of November, 1838. In 1834 entries of land were made by Henry Hemry, Nathan Fiddler, John Kalb, Benjamin Cummins, Anthony Wilcoxin, Robert

Fletcher, Robert Sherrard, Alexander Amspoker, Benjamin Todd, Bennet Kiger, Michael Price and others.

The first settlement of this township was made in 1833 by Edward Stevenson, Benjamin Todd, and John J. Needles, at and near where the village of McComb now stands. In the following year William and Alexander Kilpatrick, George Algire, John Kalb and Alexander Amspoker, came to the same neighborhood. In 1835 Robert Morrison, John Bartholomew, Charles Blakeman, Michael Price, David Wright, Jacob Thomas and others reinforced the new settlement. Benjamin Todd came from Franklin County, Ohio, and settled on the present site of the village of McComb. He was the first justice of the peace in the township, having helped to organize the township, and held various offices afterward, discharging the duties of all with honesty and fidelity. He was also a member of the first church organization in the township, and ever afterwards led a consistent Christian life, living to upwards of ninety years, having raised a large and respectable family of children, he was loved and respected by all who knew him.

John J. Needles emigrated from Franklin County also, and developed from the wilderness a beautiful farm. He was a rather impulsive, eccentric kind of a man, but withal a kind neighbor and a good citizen. He removed to Iowa in 1856 and there died in 1875.

George Algire resided all his life on the same farm he entered and cleared up. He was a small wiry man of good constitution and untiring energy and industry. He accumulated a competency, and enjoyed it in the society of his many friends. For more than forty eyars he was a minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church. As such he was fervent and zealous, of considerable ability, and led a consistent Christian life. As a neighbor and man he commanded the greatest respect.

John Kalb, another of that noble band of pioneers, after a long and useful life closed up his earthly life on the first of March, 1872. In his death the community lost a valuable member. Mr. Kalb was a member of the Methodist Church for many years, and two of his sons, John S. and Isaac N. were ministers of that church. Father Kalb was a fine specimen of the frontiersman, and contributed his full share in clearing up the country.

The first election was held in 1835 and Benjamin Todd, Charles Blakeman, Michael Price, John Kalb, John J. Needles, Alexander Amspoker, Robert Morrison, Robert Fletcher, Benjamin Cummins, David Wright, and Jacob Thomas were the voters. The officers elected were Benjamin Todd, J. J. Needles and Alexander Amspoker, trustees; Benjamin Todd, clerk; George Algire, treasurer; Benj. Todd, justice of the peace.

The first church organization was in 1835. The Rev. Thrap, of the Methodist Church, at that time organized a class, of whom Benj. Todd and wife, and John Kalb and wife were the members. Services were held in private houses, and in the schoolhouse until 1850, when the Methodists erected a church building, which was the first in the township.

The first schoolhouse was built in 1838 at the present site of McComb. It was of the then approved style, round log, clap-

board roof, and chimney order of architect. The township is now supplied with a full complement of fine schoolhouses with an enrollment of an average of four hundred scholars.

The first flouring mill was built by Thomas Pickens in 1845, on Pickens Run. Previous to that time a hand-mill owned by Wiliam Todd, was the only means of making breadstuff in the township. In 1841 George Algire built a saw-mill propelled by water power on Algire's Run. Its capacity for manufacturing lumber was 300 feet per day. The first steam saw-mill was built by Tipton & Porter in 1850, and the first steam flouring-mill by Major Isaac Cusac in 1857.

Thus has this part of the country been developing little by little, with the hardest of labor, the greatest of patience, and most persevering industry, until today Pleasant Township is one of the most populous, wealthy and beautiful in the county. Her farms and farm buildings will compare favorably with those of any other part of the county; whilst in honest thrift, intelligence and true hospitality her people are surpassed by none.

Pleasant Township has two railroads crossing its territory, the N. Y. C. & St. Louis, commonly called the "Nickel Plate," which passes through from east to west, south of the center; and the Deshler branch of the C. H. & D., passing from the southeast to the northwest with the crossing at McComb. These railroad facilities, together with the fine condition of the wagon roads gives to the farmers of this township the greatest convenience for marketing their grain and stock.

PORTAGE TOWNSHIP.

At the session of the County Commissioners in March, 1835, "Ordered that the originally surveyed Township Number 2 north, Range 10 east, be set off into a separate township, politic and corporate, and named Portage. Ordered that the voters be notified thereof, and to meet the first Monday in April to elect township officers." In 1850, on the formation of Allen Township, two tiers of sections on the east side of this township were detached and made a part of that township, so that Portage now includes only twenty-four sections instead of thirty-six that go to make a full township. This township derives its name from some small branches of the Portage River, which arise about the center of the township flowing north into Wood County, and finally into Lake Erie. It lies on the north line of the county, and is bounded on the north by Wood County, on the east by Allen Township, on the south by Liberty, and on the west by Pleasant. Its area is 15,360 acres. The first entry of land was made by Henry Lamb, October 18, 1831, of the south half of Section 19. Henry Culp, of Fairfield County, entered the north-west quarter of Section 20, on the 24th of September, 1830. The east half of the northwest quarter of Section 15 was entered on April 21, 1831, by William Cromlish. July 24, 1832, John Thompson entered the west half of the northwest quarter of Section 22, and on the 19th of August, 1833, John Morehead, of Stark County entered the northeast quarter of Section 22. On the 18th of June, 1833, Samuel Howard, of Richland County, en-

tered the northwest quarter of the southeast quarter of Section 4.

The soil in the northern portion is of sand and loam; the sandy portion is known as sand ridge. The south portion has a preponderance of clay, of a yellowish hue. This clay in some places is mixed with sand and gravel, but all is easily tilled, and exceedingly productive. Until quite recently this township preserved much of its timber in its primeval forests, but in the last twenty years it has been reduced to a minimum. This timber, in the north was sycamore, elm, hickory, oak; in the south poplar, oak, ash, walnut, beech and sugar. This township is drained by the west branches of the Portage River, through which ample outlet is afforded for carrying off the surplus water in wet seasons. Its area is 15,360 acres.

The first settlers in this township were John Thompson, on the farm afterwards owned by James Deter in Section 10, and George McClay on the farm just north, Charles Crist, John and Amos Cooper in 1833, George Taylor, Ezra Hazen on the Edington farm, Robert Walters, Samuel and John Morehead, John Reed, Sr., and a little later on Sanford F. Dulin, George Mitchell, Mahlen Morris, Switzer and John Norris.

Most of these first settlers cleared up their farms and remained living on them their entire life time. Having endured all the labor of removing timbers and draining the soil, they felt inclined to enjoy the fruits of their toil. Their house was their castle. Their rich farms supplied them plentifully with the good things of this world.

Sanford F. Dulin was one of those early settlers who always had faith in the future of this township. He cleared up, and occupied until the day of his death, together with his aged wife, a valuable farm, and to the end was as light hearted and jovial as in his younger years. Close to his farm was a good brick schoolhouse and a comfortable frame church, in the success of both of which Mr. Dulin always felt a deep interest.

John Thompson, after a residence of many years in the township, went further west, where he spent the balance of his life.

John Morehead, who attained a ripe old age, and by industry and frugality coupled with strict honesty accumulated quite a property, passed peacefully away about thirty years ago, surrounded by a number of his children, and in the midst of many friends. John Read too is dead. After improving one of the tracts of land in the township, and rearing quite a large family, he died almost in the prime of manhood, lamented by all who knew him.

Mahlen Morris was one of nature's noblemen. Honest, industrious, intelligent, he was called upon by his neighbors to look after the affairs of the township, in many responsible positions. He was four times in succession elected a justice of the peace, and filled the office faithfully. In 1846 he was elected to the office of county treasurer, and with his family moved to Findlay. In 1848 he was re-elected, and in 1849 he died of an attack of typhoid fever. His loss was universally lamented. Such has been his conduct of the affairs of the office that he had won the confidence of all the people of the county.

The first schoolhouse was near Pleasant Hill, but the exact date could not be ascertained—perhaps about 1834. The second

schoolhouse was built in Judge Cooper's district, and the first teacher was Miss Rebecca Hedges. The township is now supplied with its full quota of good brick schoolhouses, with an enumeration of over four hundred pupils.

The first church was built on Sand Ridge in Section 5, by the Presbyterians. Amongst the first members were Miles Wilson and some of his family, and John Norris and wife. The second church was built United Brethren, on Ten Mile in 1836. Treat Demming and wife, and Samuel and Henry DeRodes were of the first membership. The first marriage in the township was that of Amos Cooper and Elisabeth Poe. The first child born was Allen Cooper, son of the Judge, and the first death was that of a child of John Norris. There are many well improved farms, and many good, substantial and comfortable farm buildings in this township, among which, in the past may be mentioned those of Judge Cooper, Adam Crumrine, John E. Morehead, G. W. Montgomery, T. F. Edgington, John Lewis and others. The roads and farms are generally in good condition, and thrift, industry and valuable improvements are seen everywhere, sure indications of the intelligence and prosperity of the people.

There was a post office established in this township in 1860 with Jarvis Humphrey as postmaster. Upon the removal of Mr. Humphrey from the township, Joseph Johnston succeeded him, and held the office until his faculties became impaired by age, so that he was unfit to farther discharge the duties, Mrs. G. W. Montgomery was appointed. Upon the establishment of the rural routes the office was discontinued.

Joseph Johnston, above referred to, was a native of Virginia, where he was born on the 4th day of April, 1801. He was a farmer all his life. His father, Isaac Johnston, moved from Boutetot County, Va., to Ohio in 1811, and settled at Portsmouth, in Scioto County. The elder Johnston was a potter, and followed that trade whilst in Portsmouth. In 1827 the family came to this county, and took up their residence in the village of Findlay. Mr. Johnston was married in 1832 to Susan George, and removed to what is now Marion Township, and in the same year was elected sheriff of the county, which office he filled acceptably for one term. He had for neighbors in this township such men as Asher Wickham, Charles Thomas and E. S. Jones. In 1853 Mr. Johnston sold his Marion Township farm, and moved to this township, where he resided to the time of his death. He had a family of fourteen children, twelve of whom grew up. He was of English descent, but had limited educational facilities, and was compelled to depend upon his own resources in that direction. He helped to build the first schoolhouse in Marion Township and helped to organize, and was a voter at the first election held in the township. He was prominently connected with the early history of the county, and his industry and energy, with his good sense, gave him quite an influence with the early settlers. He lived long enough to see the vast improvements made in the county, and to enjoy the fruits of his labors. His wife died in 1850, and he afterwards married Jane Dudgeon, who died in 1879. In 1863 he was appointed postmaster at Portage Center, which office he held about sixteen years. In 1870 he

united with the Methodist Episcopal Church, and remained a member until his death.

Judge John Cooper was a native of Fayette County, Pa., where he was born April 25, 1811. He was the eldest son of James Cooper who came to Pennsylvania from New York. Mr. Cooper's ancestors on his father's side were Scotch, and on his mother's side Low Dutch. In 1812 the family came to Perry County, Ohio, and settled near Somerset. That part of the State was but sparsely settled, and the land which the Judge's father had entered had to be reclaimed from the wilderness, and here the Judge labored until 1832, when he came to this township, bringing with him his young wife, Jane Eliza, daughter of Daniel Cusac, whom he married in 1830. There were but seventeen families in the township, including Portage and the west half of Allen, when he came here. He at once located on the same land where he spent his entire life. Mr. and Mrs. Cooper celebrated their Golden Wedding, at the fiftieth anniversary of their wedded life, 1880, and all their children were present. His first neighbors in the township were John Thompson, Robert Walters and John Howard, and they were about the only residents of what is now Portage township. The Judge held important offices in the township and county. In 1849 he was appointed one of the associate judges of the county and held that office until the adoption of the present constitution. In 1862 he was elected county commissioner, and served six years as such. He was also one the first directors of the County Infirmary. Mr. Cooper had no other educational advantages than that furnished by a common country school, such as they were in those days. He was not a member of any church, but in religious belief he had a leaning to the Old School Baptists. He was always a friend to schools and churches. He was the father of nine children.

Samuel Howard, was the son of a farmer, and was born in Westmoreland County, Pa., December 7th, 1814. He was brought up on a farm, and has followed that vocation all his life. When but a few months old his parents came to Richland County, Ohio. Mr. Howard was the father of eleven children, most of whom are still living. He came to this county in 1833, and settled on what is called "Ten Mile Creek," in this township. They were surrounded by the forests; Indians plenty; game in abundance. Mr. Howard said that when he got up in the morning, and wanted to kill a turkey, he was at a loss to know which direction to go, as they were gobbling all around him. Mr. Howard said that his father had fifty dollars in money when he came here, and that he borrowed it of him to enter forty acres of land on condition that he should keep the family in provisions for one year, and as there were eleven of them in the family, he said it required a great deal of hard labor on his part to do so, especially as flour was sixteen dollars per barrel, and corn one dollar and a half per bushel. The settlers had to go to Tiffin to mill, and to the village of Findlay to trade. In December, 1837, he married Elisabeth Carroll, who died his widow in 1901.

Building a cabin in the woods, he commenced life full of hope and energy, determined to succeed. In 1850, having been

elected treasurer of the county, he sold his land and moved to Findlay. He served two terms as treasurer. He then purchased the old Trout farm at VanBuren. After residing here for some years he sold out and bought the Hollenback farm, joining the north corporation line of Findlay, where he resided until 1880, when he moved into town. Captain Howard died March 15th, 1889, beloved by all who knew him, and especially by the old soldiers of the Civil War for whom he always had the highest regards.

Samuel Howard was captain of Company G, 118 Regiment O. V. I., in the late war, and was with that regiment in all its marches and battles until the spring of 1864. In 1863 he was detailed to go to Boston to assist in organizing the drafted men of Massachusetts. He remained for three months, when he rejoined the regiment and went to Eastern Tennessee. In the spring of 1864 he had the misfortune to get his leg broken, and was discharged from the service. He was the father of eleven children, several of whom are living in Findlay at the present writing. The Howard M. E. Church on Cherry Street was named in his honor because of his liberal donations to the society for the buying of the ground and the erection of the building. Also the college campus, a beautiful plat of ground of ten acres, a mile north of the court house, and on which the college now stands, was the free gift of Capt. Howard to the College Corporation, besides contributing quite a sum of money toward the construction of the building. Capt. Howard was always interested in all public enterprises that looked to the advancement of the town or the entire county.

Samuel Morehead, was born in Westmoreland County, Pa., in 1798, and came to Ohio with his father's family in 1814, and settled near Massilon, Stark County. Mr. Morehead lost his mother before leaving Pennsylvania, and his father married again soon after he came to Ohio. He was a farmer, reared to the profession by his father, who followed the same business. In 1821 he married Mary Edger, and in 1834 came to this county, and settled in Portage Township, on the farm afterward owned by his son John E., who died in the spring of 1909. His parents were of Irish descent. The Moreheads are generally large muscular men, endowed with great physical endurance, and industrious, frank, openhearted, liberal and hospitable. They are known for their genial good nature.

Mr. Morehead was a member of the Presbyterian Church for more than fifty years, and was one of the pioneers of that denomination in this part of the country.

His wife died in 1854, leaving two children John E. and Mrs. W. K. Leonard, of Big Lick Township, and he never married again.

The only attempt to build up a town in this township, was by Jacob Andre who laid out a town of seventy-two lots on the south line of Section 15, and called it Lafayette. It had great expectations, but its uneventful history was cut short.

The following is the assessor's report for Portage Township for 1909:

Wheat, acres sown 1,221; bushels produced, 19,200. Oats, acres sown, 1,208; bushels produced, 32,665. Spring barley, acres sown, 16; bushels produced, 360.

Corn, acres planted, 2,384; bushels produced, 87,830. Irish potatoes, acres planted, 50; bushels produced, 3,717. Meadow, acres in grass, 1,889; tons of hay produced, 3,287.

Butter, pounds made in home dairys, 32,300. Eggs, 30,000 dozen.

Orchards—Apples, acres occupied, 128; bushels produced, 3,260. Pears, acres occupied, 3; bushels produced, 90. Plums, acres 1; bushels produced, 80.

Commercial fertilizers, pounds used, 3,500.

Horses, number owned in April, 1909, 255. Cattle, milk cows, 301; all others, 117; total 418. Sheep, 793; pounds of wool shorn, 6,315. Hogs, total number, 648; for summer market, 441.

All of the above items have decreased since 1881, except corn, which shows an increase of 8,000 bushels.

UNION TOWNSHIP.

The origin of this township is found in the records of the County Commissioners of the 4th of June, 1832, where we read: "There was a petition presented by sundry inhabitants residing in the original surveyed Township No. 1 south, in Range 9. praying to be set off as a township under the name of Union, which petition was favorably considered, and they were accordingly set off under the above name."

Union is bounded on the north by Blanchard Township, on the east by Eagle, on the south by Orange, and on the west by Putnam County. It is an original township of thirty-six sections, and contains 32,040 acres.

The soil in all parts of this township is exceedingly productive, especially that along the creek bottom where it is of a dark sandy loam, while the higher grounds are composed of fertile clay sometimes mixed with loam and sand, and is easy of cultivation. The principal crops are wheat, oats, corn and grass. This township is well watered by Ottawa and Riley Creeks, which also furnish good drainage for the adjacent lands, and by the numerous small tributaries that empty into them, assist in the drainage of the entire township.

On the 16th of October, 1829, Phillip Powell made the first entry of land, it being the north-east quarter of Section 2. April 2, 1830, John Bright entered the northwest quarter of Section 22 and in October of the same year, Phillip Cramer entered the south half of Section 1. The west half of the southeast quarter of Section 12 was entered by John Baker, January 30th, 1832, and the same year Richard M. Carson, of Pickaway County, entered the east half of the northeast quarter of Section 4, and Rudolph Snyder entered the east half of the southeast quarter of Section 36. About the same time the southwest quarter of Section 4 was entered by Daniel Tussing, of Fairfield County, and a little later, Abraham Rose, of the same county, entered the northwest quarter of the northeast quarter of Section 36.

Phillip Cramer, who settled on Tiderishi Creek, in Section 1, in November, 1830, was the first white settler in the township. His sons Jacob and Daniel afterwards resided on the same premises. When Mr. Cramer came, he had to make his own road through the forests to his lands—no neighbors, no clearing, all strange solitude under the gigantic trees that at that time stood thick

MAJESTIC THEATRE AND MAIN STREET, FINDLAY

MAIN STREET, FINDLAY

SOUTH MAIN STREET, LOOKING NORTH, FINDLAY

MAIN AND WEST CRAWFORD STREETS, FINDLAY

on the ground, together with the smaller growth and bushes. Mr. Cramer lived to a very old age, and was the pioneer minister of the United Brethren Church. He was a man of some ability, zealous in his "Master's Work," a good neighbor, honest in all his dealings, and much respected by all his acquaintances.

In the following spring, Nicolas Folk, settled on what is now known as the Teatsworth farm, on Ottawa Creek, (Tawa), and in the fall of the same year George Burkett and William Lytle, with their families, settled farther up the creek. Two or three families of the Wades settled near the center of the township. John Flick, and Daniel Fox and others along the creek. Levi Showalter, James Burns, Pancoast, Gibson and Taylor in the western part, and Benjamin Marshall, James West and others in the south part of the township. Benjamin Marshall was the father of our townsman John W. Marshall, now residing on Lima Avenue, and who has told his son that when he passed through Findlay, on his way to his lands there were but fourteen houses all told in Findlay. This was September, 1838.

Wenman Wade was one of that class of robust and pushing frontiersmen, who pave the way for a better civilization and prosperous country, by boldly pushing out into the wilderness, and enduring the hardships and privations of pioneer life uncomplainingly. Honest, industrious and contented, Mr. Wade was one who enjoyed the confidence of the community in which he lived. He held the office of justice of the peace, and is entitled to the distinction of being the first person in the county whose election was contested, as the following notice will show:

"To the Clerk of the Court of Hancock County:—You are requested to withhold the return of the election of Union township, wherein Wenman Wade was elected Justice of the Peace, and the election is contested, and the same contest is to be tried on the 13th of September, 1838.

William Roller,
Asst. Associate Judge."

September the 5th, 1838.

It does not appear who the contestant was, or the grounds of contest. Therefore it is inferred that Mr. Wade established his claim to the office, for in 1841 he was again elected.

Levi Showalter resided in the township until his death, and to the end was a hale, hearty old man, with the same frank, brusque manners, sterling honesty, and neighborly spirit that were always his leading characteristics. He was respected and trusted by all who knew him, and left behind him pleasant memories.

James Burns, one of the best citizens, industrious and honest, after years of toil, accumulated a competency for himself and family, died surrounded by kind friends and neighbors, regretted by all.

George Burket was born in Berks County, Pa., and emigrated to Fairfield County, Ohio, at which place he was married to Mary Fox, in 1831 he came to Hancock, Ohio, with his wife and two children. He settled on the farm afterwards owned by his son Jacob. Mr. Burket was a tall slender man, and of rather delicate health. With the help of his family, he cleared a very valuable farm, at which place he died about 1862.

Jacob Burket, son of George Burket, was born in Fairfield County, in December, 1811,

and when about five years of age, his parents removed to Perry County, where he remained until 1831, when he came to this township. When Mr. Burket came, there were but two other families in the township, Phillip Cramer, who resided where his son afterwards resided, and Nicolas Folk, who lived on what is since known as the Teatsworth farm. Mr. Burket was present and voted at the first election held in the township. He said that at that election, Phillip Cramer, Nicolas Folk and George Burket were elected trustees, and Wenman Wade, clerk. Mr. Burket was married in 1832, to Sarah Cramer, by Esq. John Cramer. This was the first marriage in the township. Mrs. Burket died in 1850, and he was again married this time to the widow of Phillip Cramer, Jr. After a long and active life on his farm, Mr. Burket moved to the village of Rawson, where he quietly enjoyed his declining years. He always enjoyed the esteem of his neighbors, and had a host of friends.

Nicolas Folk came from Fairfield County, and took up his abode on Tawa Creek about two miles north of where the village of Rawson now stands on or near the Teatsworth farm, which he entered. Mr. Folk was a small man, rather feeble in health, but succeeded in clearing up the farm on which he lived and died. He was highly respected by all who knew him.

Rev. Richard Biggs was born on the 12th day of November, 1806, in Columbia County, Pa., and died at his home in the town of Rawson, Ohio, on the 18th day of July, 1880. In 1824 he united with the Methodist Church in Northumberland County, Pa. He shortly afterwards removed to Summit County, Ohio, where in July, 1836, he was licensed to preach. In 1838 he removed to Hancock County, and settled near the present town of Rawson. Two years later he was admitted to the Northern Ohio Conference at is session at Norwalk, and for more than thirty years was an itinerant minister, serving charges at Findlay, Kalida, Defiance, Clarksfield, Amherst, Dalton, Congress, Chesterville, Marcellus, Millersburg, Shaneville, Pleasantville, Mt. Blanchard, Arcadia, Adrain, Bluffton, Bettsville, and McComb. Left an orphan when but six years of age, his educational privileges were very limited; yet such was his diligence in his studies, that he began teaching when he was sixteen. He was always a close student, and kept up with the times. He was a man of unyielding rectitude, and pure in his life, modest and retiring in his disposition, yet faithful in the discharge of his duty. He commenced the ministry when it meant hard labor, and little pay; the country being new, the appointments being a long distance apart and the people scattered and poor, yet he earnestly and uncomplainingly toiled to lay the foundation of good society, good government and good morals.

During the Civil War he fearlessly defended the cause of the Government against the opposition in the north, and boldly stood up for "Old Glory" when ministers were obliged to lay their revolvers down on the desk before them when they commenced their discourses, as a menace to those who might want to make trouble when they expressed admiration for the flag and prayed for the victory of the Union cause. His faithful wife passed away in 1883, and of

ten children the Rev. Peter Biggs, now residing on Lime Avenue, is the sole survivor.

In 1845, Edson Goit, Esq., a pioneer lawyer of Findlay, erected a flouring mill on Ottawa Creek, Thomas Pickens doing the millwright work. This was afterwards better known as the Teatsworth Mill. It was located two miles north of Rawson, where may still be seen the remains of the embankment forming a part of the dam. It was originally a water-mill, but after its sale by Goit to James Teatsworth, steam power was added, with wood, which was then plenty, used for fuel. The mill was a great convenience to the surrounding country, and its loss—for it was torn down and removed many years ago—was very seriously felt by the people of the country around it.

The first church built in the township was by the United Brethren, and is known as the Clymer Church. There are now ten churches in the township as follows: United Brethren, two; Evangelical, two; Christian Union, two, and one each of the Methodist Episcopal, Methodist Protestant, Church of God, and United Presbyterian.

The first schoolhouse was built at the center of the township, and a schoolhouse has been kept there ever since. There are now ten school buildings in the township, all of them, I believe, of brick, and furnished with furniture of the most modern style. The schools of this township have the reputation of being among the best in the county. The enumeration of children of school age averages about six hundred.

Most of the first settlers of this township were from the eastern and middle counties of the State, and very largely from Fairfield County.

Union Township has three villages within its boundaries, mention of which will be made in another chapter of this work.

VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP.

The records of the county commissioners for March 7, 1831, show the following entry: "A petition of sundry inhabitants of Hancock County was presented for setting off the original surveyed township, numbered 1 and 2 in Range 10, south of the base line, into a township, which was accordingly set off, to be known and designated by the name of Van Buren."

At the March session of 1834 the commissioners ordered that Township 2 south, Range 9, be attached to Van Buren Township, for corporate purposes. This township which was named for President Van Buren, is situated on the south line of the county and is bounded on the north by Eagle Township, on the east by Madison, on the south by Hardin County, and on the west by Orange Township. It contains 15,360 acres.

The timber consisted principally of walnut, the different varieties of oak, ash, maple and elm, with beech, sycamore and buckeye. It required much time and great labor to remove this great mass of timber in clearing up the land and preparing it for cultivation. The soil in the low lands is a black loam, on the uplands clay, but all mingled and enriched by other substances as to be very fertile. The township is watered and drained by Ottawa and Riley Creeks, both of which have their sources here. Good drainage can be had anywhere in the township by these and their small tributaries.

The first entry of land was the northwest quarter of Section 27 on the 4th of January, 1831, by Benjamin Sparr. In April of the

same year, Samuel Green entered the east half of the southwest quarter of the same section, and in July, James West entered the east half of the northwest quarter of Section 23. May 16th, 1833, John Diller entered the northeast quarter of the southeast quarter of Section 10 and in December of the same year Solomon Bergman, of Licking County, entered the west half of the southwest quarter of Section 17. Peter Pifer and C. Price, both of Pennsylvania, on the 20th of May, 1834, made entries of land, the one took up the northeast quarter of Section 8 and the other the east half of the northeast quarter of Section 9.

In October, 1834, Robert Shaw of Portage County, Peter Foltz of Fairfield County, Isaac Ashburn of Knox County, Joseph Smith of Columbiana County, Henry Freed and Daniel Besserman both of Stark County, Ohio, made entries of land here, other entries speedily followed, many of them by newly arrived emigrants from Germany.

Nicholas Essinger, Adam Gassman and Peter Pifer made the first settlement here, as early, perhaps, as 1833. Not far from the same time Adam Reddick, Peter and Henry Heldman came in, and were quickly followed by Philip Heldman, Michel and Peter Wilch, all from Germany. Soon the Stinemans, the Freeds and the Bessermans, the Hassons, the Barmouths, the Prices and others, nearly all Germans, followed and began to open up farms. These pioneers were industrious, thrifty, honest and moral, and their robust health, the result of frugal living, their energy and solid strength backed up by a fixed determination to succeed in the land of their adoption, soon enabled them to open up valuable farms, and today we have not a more industrious, honest, peaceable and contented people than those found in this township.

The first log schoolhouses built in the township were at Fulhert's and John Tilles' and were erected about the same time. The schoolhouses here, as elsewhere in the county, followed close on the settlements and these were perhaps built as early as 1834. There are now six schoolhouss in the townhip having a good attendance.

The German Reform Church building at Jacob Traucht's was the first erected in this township. There are now one Methodist Episcopal and one Dunkard, one German Reform and one German Lutheran Church in the township.

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP.

At the meeting of the county commissioners, on the 5th day of March, 1832, Charles McKinnis and Robert L. Strother, two of the commissioners being present, the following record was made: "It appearing to the Board of Commissioners necessary, that they set off the original Township 2 north, in Range 12 east, which shall be a body corporate and politic, and known by the name of Washington Township." This township was named in honor of the "Father of his country" and is situate in the northeast corner of the county, and is bounded on the north by Wood County, on the east by Seneca County, on the south by Big Lick Township, and on the west by Cass Township. It contains thirty-six sections of land, of 640 acres each, or a total of 23,040 acres.

The soil of this locality is somewhat varied. The entire part of the township, except the north tier of sections, is a heavy clay soil, with patches of vegetable mould in the depressions and along the streams, and occasionally some

sand and clay mixed on the higher points. The north tier of sections, from one to six inclusive, has a gravel ridge running through them, covering about one-half of the section, with a narrow strip between the ridge and the Wood County line, of a deep, rich, black vegetable mold. Near the foot of the slope of the gravel ridge, is a strip of red clay, not more than four or five rods wide, but very productive. The surface of the whole township slopes gently to the north to the summit of the ridge, from thence to the north line of the township the declination is more abrupt. The east and middle branches of the Portage River furnish outlets for all the underdrains that the farmers have in place, and sometimes serve as a convenience for watering stock. These branches are now known by the name of Arcadia and Fostoria Creeks, one passing through the town of Arcadia and the other one through the town of Fostoria. The east branch has its source in Section 12, in Big Lick Township, running in a northeasterly course, entering this township, in Section 35, running across the township in a northeasterly course, leaving it near the northeast corner of the county. The middle branch rises at the south line of the township, about four miles southeast of the village of Arcadia, crossing the township, leaving it near the northwest corner.

As these streams are dry in summer time, when there is not plenty of rain, they are not of much account for watering stock, but possess great value as outlets for the drainage of the lands. They form deep cuts through the ridge in the north part of the township, washed out in the past years when the country south of the ridge was a lake, or at least a morass.

The first entry of land in this township was made November 24th. 1830, by Joseph Long, of Fairfield County. Ohio, who made entry of the west half of the northwest quarter of Section 4, and on the same day, Caleb Roller, of the same county, entered the east half of the southeast quarter of Section 5. December 1st, 1830, John Gersuch, of Wayne County. Ohio, entered the northeast quarter of Section 5, and on the 17th day of the same month, he made entry of the northeast quarter of Section 1. On the 17th day of December, 1830, James Connelly. of Richland County, Ohio, entered the west half of the northwest quarter of Section 3.

On the 17th day of March, 1831, the east half of the northeast quarter of Section 2, was taken up by John Norris of Wayne County. Thomas Kelley, also of Wayne County, on April 16, 1831, made entry of the northwest quarter of Section 1, and on the 7th of May of the same year, Richard Cole, of Columbiana County, entered the west half of the southwest quarter of Section 1. These entries were followed in the same year by those made by William Norris, of Seneca County, James G. Wiseman, of Perry County, William Wiseley of Fairfield County, Michael and Liverton Thomas, of Wayne County, John Mackrill, of Richland County, James Beason, David Peters and others.

John Gorsuch made the first settlement that was made in this township, on the northeast quarter of Section 1, in April, 1831. The next settler was James Sweeney, who located on the southeast quarter of Section 4, in the same month, and John Norris settled on the northeast quarter of Section 2, about the first of May; and in the same month, James Wiseman located on the northwest quarter of Section 12. Mr. Sweeney and Mr. Wiseman having come to the township in the prime of manhood, and

endured all the hardships of pioneer life, both lived to a ripe old age, and died on the farms they first settled on. Mr. Gorsuch also died many years ago. Mr. John Norris moved to Portage Township, on Section 32, where he died, the oldest of the four pioneers in this township. In 1832 several more families settled in the township, among them those of Jacob Heist and Elijah McRill, William Eckels, William Ferrill, James Bryan, Liverton Thomas, Joel Hale and Elijah R. Anderson.

This township, like almost all the others of the county, was very heavily timbered, the principal kinds of timber being white, red, bur and swamp oak; white, red and hickory elm; white, black and blue ash; white and black walnut; hard and soft maple; wild cherry; shellbark and white hickory, bass wood, cotton wood, sycamore and buckeye. In the early settlement of the township, nearly all this timber was valueless except for fencing, and was regarded as a great drawback in the way of improvements, but such is the demand for timber at this day, that what was then destroyed or wasted, would now bring fortunes to the lucky owners. The first schoolhouse in this township was built in 1833 or 1834, and was located on the northwest quarter of Section 12, on the farm of James Wiseman, afterwards owned by Gov. Foster. The first school in that house was taught by Isaac Wiseman, and was the first school in the township. There are now nine schoolhouses and schools in the township. The enumeration of youths of school age is about six hundred.

The United Brethren have an academy in that part of Fostoria which is situated in this township. The schools of the township are at present in a flourishing condition, and much interest is felt in their success by the patrons. The school buildings are all comfortable and commodious.

The religious sentiment of the township finds expression through seven churches—two Methodist Episcopal, one Evangelican Lutheran, one Presbyterian, one German Reformed, one German Baptist, and one United Brethren.

The first election in Washington Township was held in the fall of 1832, when General Jackson and Henry Clay were national candidates for the presidency. Twelve votes were cast at this election. The names of the electors were John Norris, John Gorsuch, Silas Gorsuch, Nelson Gorsuch, James Sweeney, James Wiseman, Liverton Thomas, Jacob Heistan, Elijah McRill, William Ferrall, James Bryan and William Eckels. The vote stood, as now remembered, Clay eight, Jackson four. If "Young Harry of the West" had met with the same success throughout the entire United States "Old Hickory" would not have his name on the list of men honored with the highest office the greatest Republic in existence can bestow. Liverton Thomas was elected justice of the peace, and was the first elected in the township.

The Lake Erie & Western Railroad runs across the township in a diagonal direction from northeast to southwest, and is paralleled by the Toledo, Fostoria & Findlay electric line throughout. What was called the old Continental Road, graded through from Tiffin, Ohio, to Ft. Wayne, Indiana, in 1855, changed hands in 1880, and is now the New York, Chicago & St. Louis Railroad well known over this part of the United States, was at once completed from Buffalo to Chicago, crosses this township from east to west a little south of the center. Both these roads pass through the town of Arcadia where they cross, making the

occasion to build this village. The following incident illustrating pioneer life was formerly related by the Hon. Henry Sheets: "When Jacob Heistand came to this township from Wayne County, he brought with him several head of cows and young cattle, and not having any enclosure in which to keep them, allowed them to roam at large in the woods. He took the precaution, however, to put a bell on one, that he might be able to find them when wanted. But one evening when he went for them, he found that they had strayed farther away than usual, he did not find them until dark, and on his return, in passing around one of the large swales in the neighborhood, he lost his bearings, and the cattle not being very particular as to the course they took, went in an opposite direction from home. Mr. Heistand followed them until late in the evening without coming to his or any other clearing. The woods were infested by wolves, which now commenced to howl close to him; the cattle gathered close about him, through fear of the wolves. Mr. Heistand concluded that he would stay with the cattle, and procured a cudgel with which to keep the wolves at bay. But they becoming more bold, and howling fiercer and fiercer, he concluded to start on again, hoping to strike some clearing, which he happily did in a few minutes, but about four miles from home. The clearing was that of James Wiseman, with whom he remained during the night."

James G. Wiseman was born in Greenbriar County, Va., in August, 1790. He served in the War of 1812 as a cavalryman, under Capt. Lewis. Mr. Wiseman was married in 1814 to Miss Elizabeth Summers, and in September, 1817, removed to Ohio, settling in Madison County. He and his wife made the trip from Virginia to Ohio—a distance of more than four hundred miles—on horseback. After two years' residence he moved to Perry County, where he made his home until the spring of 1831, when he came to Washington Township. Mr. Wiseman was a medium-sized man, rugged and hardy, and well fitted to endure the hardships and privations of frontier life. He was passionately fond of hunting, and was an expert in the use of the rifle, but he never allowed this foudness for sport to interfere with the real business of life, that of making a comfortable home for himself and family. He cleared up a large and rich farm. He was an honest, genial, whole-souled man, ever ready to assist the needy, and no man more fully enjoyed the confidence of his neighbors. Mr. Wiseman died in 1873, and his wife survived him seven years. They were the parents of thirteen children, and lived to see all of them become married men and women except two, one of which died quite young, the other being killed in the War of the Rebellion.

William Church was the oldest of eight children of Collis and Elizabeth Church, and was born in Potsdam, St. Lawrence County, N. Y., February 4th, 1818. His father was a farmer and William followed that occupation until he was twenty-one years of age. He then began to learn the blacksmith's trade, which he followed for many years, and after his return to farming he still did his own blacksmithing, including an occasional job for a neighbor. Mr. Church came to Ohio nearly eighty years ago, the family and household goods making the trip in a wagon. On their arrival in the state, they located in the northern part of Wayne County, near the village of Jackson. Here Mr. Church's mother died. In 1834 the family came to Hancock County and located on the

land on which the town of Rawson now stands. Mr. Church came to Findlay and learned his trade with David Webster. In 1840 he married Martha J. Teatsworth, and followed his trade for thirteen years. He then purchased the farm in Liberty Township known as the Burkhead farm. After a residence here of a few years, he sold out and removed to the farm in Washington Township where he resided until his death on September 16, 1903. Mrs. Church died in 1873. They were the parents of four children. Mr. Church was always a man of strict morals, but never united with any church organization; his tendency, however, was toward the Baptist. He owned one of the finest farms in the county, on which are very tasteful and substantial buildings. He was always noted for his honesty and industry. He practiced economy without penuriousness, and hospitality without extravagance.

Charles E. Jordan was born in Belmont County, Ohio, on May 23rd, 1800. He was married to Margaret Moore, February 11th, 1826, who lived until May, 1873, dying at Arcadia, Ohio. Mr. Jordan came to this township October 2nd, 1833, and settled on land adjoining Arcadia, on the farm where his son Capt. John Jordan afterwards died. Mr. Jordan had nine children, two of whom are still living. Although a pronounced disbeliever in the cause of the North during the Civil War, five of his six sons were soldiers in the Union army. James was killed at the battle of Resaca, and John died many years afterward as a result of wounds received in one of the many engagements in which he took part. His eldest son, Daniel S. Jordan, was married to Miss Sarah Catharine Kimmell, in 1853, and for many years owned the farm where Reeves Park is at present located.

AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS.

TOWNSHIPS	WHEAT		RYE		OATS		CORN	
	Acres sown for harvest 1908	Bu. prd. 1908	Acres sown 1908	Bu. prd. 1908	Acres sown 1908	Bu. prd. 1908	Acres planted	Bu. shelled prod. 1908
1 Allen	1,479	25,414	10	60	970	30,592	1,984	85,635
2 Amanda	2,011	29,160	45	735	896	28,776	2,631	114,510
3 Biglick	2,559	44,587	46	721	1,164	42,665	3,213	131,460
4 Blanchard	2,383	31,146	95	1,582	1,860	58,809	4,990	233,177
5 Cass	1,403	24,675	23	225	986	31,876	2,168	80,090
6 Delaware	2,367	31,728	90	1,040	616	14,841	2,875	111,470
7 Eagle	2,270	32,768	35	370	837	28,312	2,819	116,370
8 Jackson	1,603	21,425	...	...	1,195	22,815	2,163	100,380
9 Liberty	1,612	26,375	23	355	1,021	41,110	2,886	136,400
10 Madison	2,297	17,362	123	1,145	452	12,707	1,849	71,660
11 Marion	1,751	24,292	...	...	1,075	39,510	2,844	130,710
12 Orange	1,910	21,275	88	835	1,421	38,495	3,202	123,080
13 Pleasant	2,136	33,255	108	1,192	1,596	67,382	4,552	193,595
14 Portage	1,221	19,200	8	200	1,208	32,665	2,384	87,830
15 Union	2,088	27,594	136	1,930	1,595	54,333	3,754	70,030
16 Van Buren	2,035	21,815	128	1,434	805	20,701	2,253	99,570
17 Washington	1,327	22,920	...	...	703	21,540	1,387	48,608
Total	32,407	454,991	950	11,828	18,400	578,129	47,954	1,934,647

TOWNSHIPS	IRISH POTATOES		MEADOW		CLOVER		
	Acres planted	Bushels prod.	Acres in grass 1908	Tons of hay produced	Acres grown	Tons hay produced	Bushels of seed orid.
1 Allen	17	2,111	1,613	2,130	827	1,265	896
2 Amanda	50	4,565	1,526	2,250	1,519	2,146	1,485
3 Biglick	35	3,553	844	1,056	2,021	2,826	2,023
4 Blanchard	139	12,378	543	697	2,513	3,767	1,668
5 Cass	41	3,472	1,343	2,014	643	1,053	795
6 Delaware	29	3,300	1,533	3,268	1,036	1,487	1,372
7 Eagle	54	4,781	779	993	1,578	806	1,298
8 Jackson	29	2,780	730	837	1,362	1,855	530
9 Liberty	64	5,480	2,364	3,505	343	484	1,032
10 Madison	41	2,865	565	738	1,201	1,702	867
11 Marion	192	21,340	1,947	2,768	1,368	1,934	911
12 Orange	..	....	1,868	2,249	2,081	2,787	1,760
13 Pleasant	38	3,250	822	1,047	2,699	3,465	1,882
14 Portage	50	3,717	1,889	3,287	122	148	29
15 Union	24	2,420	1,068	1,281	1,884	2,816	1,404
16 Van Buren	50	4,411	1,269	1,792	1,389	1,798	1,764
17 Washington	12	1,200	745	801	814	1,009	510
Total	865	81,623	21,263	30,653	23,400	32,348	20,226

TOWNSHIPS	MILK	BUTTER	EGGS	MAPLE PRODTS.		HONEY	BEES
	Gal. sold 1908 family use	Lbs. made in home drs. 1908	Doz. Prod. 1908	No. trees Fm. which syrup	Gallons of syrup 1908	Lbs. honey 1908	No. hives 1908
1 Allen	22,752	40,459	37,470	2,964	1,075	1,560	40
2 Amanda	4,500	60,180	80,900	1,125	500	1,900	85
3 Biglick	....	57,900	64,770	3,849	1,544	1,600	60
4 Blanchard	....	66,150	67,555	365	85	741	49
5 Cass	15,000	46,270	39,100	1,550	172	...	..
6 Delaware	....	37,670	78,980	1,688	727	15	4
7 Eagle	....	46,350	97,900	2,309	794	...	..
8 Jackson	....	32,920	38,300	380	125	...	..
9 Liberty	5,100	74,600	39,345	2,555	960	1,608	116
10 Madison	....	46,800	37,916	950	282	600	20
11 Marion	107,600	44,500	60,300	465	285	3,300	110
12 Orange	....	68,940	102,935	105	60	...	..
13 Pleasant	6,400	44,128	117,395	...	...	...	..
14 Portage	....	32,300	30,000	...	30	...	..
15 Union	....	49,480	76,660	623	197	3,735	180
16 Van Buren	....	60,153	50,450	664	232	3,215	186
17 Washington	4,000	19,980	20,460	96	50	...	..
Total	165,352	828,780	1,040,436	18,688	7,116	18,284	850

TOWNSHIPS	HORSES No. owned in 1908	CATTLE No. owned in 1908	SHEEP No. owned in 1908	HOGS No. owned in 1908	WOOL Pounds shorn 1908
1 Allen	265	570	1,044	1,048	5,508
2 Amanda	490	961	3,202	1,483	25,586
3 Biglick	411	822	1,591	1,087	11,145
4 Blanchard	508	1,723	1,680	2,345	14,379
5 Cass	428	873	1,715	1,649	5,565
6 Delaware	518	1,330	3,514	2,263	22,341
7 Eagle	463	1,326	2,477	2,402	7,510
8 Jackson	426	1,106	3,493	2,003	22,250
9 Liberty	464	977	1,364	1,852	10,963
10 Madison	423	1,098	2,244	1,902	11,161
11 Marion	501	1,136	2,699	1,841	17,830
12 Orange	572	1,498	3,069	2,191	18,370
13 Pleasant	639	1,355	959	2,714	4,736
14 Portage	255	418	793	648	6,315
15 Union	657	1,466	2,690	2,449	13,045
16 Van Buren	433	1,176	2,111	1,981	11,411
17 Washington	356	715	1,275	907	2,360
Total	7,872	18,100	35,920	30,765	210,575

CHAPTER XIX.

TOWNS AND VILLAGES

Sketches of Arcadia, Arlington, Benton Ridge, Cannonsberg, Deweyville, Findlay (Including Gas and Oil Industry and Findlay College), Fostoria, Houcktown, Jenera, McComb, Mt. Blanchard, Mt. Cory, Rawson, Shawtown, Van Buren, Vanlue, West Independence, Williamstown, Etc.

ARCADIA.

This town was laid out in July, 1855, by David Peters and Ambrose Peters. It comprised 135 lots, on the south part of the north half, and the north part of the south half of the southwest quarter of Section 22. Other additions were made by William Wheelan and Charles E. Jordan. The town is located about nine miles northeast of Findlay at the crossing of the Lake Erie & Western and the New York, Chicago & St. Louis Railroads, and has a population of about six hundred. The country surrounding it is rich and well improved, and there seems to be no good reason why Arcadia should not become in time quite a busy place. Its inhabitants are intelligent and enterprising and already quite a large trade is done here. The main street has been paved with brick at a cost of $12,000.

The business of the town is represented by the following concerns:

The Arcadia Bank & Savings Company, with the following officers: Abraham Ebersole, president; John Baker, vice-president; G. W. Dick, secretary and treasurer; Fred P. Conaway, teller. This bank has a capital stock of $25,000, of which $13,750 is paid stock. Two general stores, one drug store, two hardware stores, handling buggies and farming implements, one grocery store, one meat market, two barber shops, two saw mills, one repair shop, one tin shop, one tile factory, one concrete factory, one elevator mill, two blacksmith and wagon repair shops, two livery barns, one electric light plant, two depots.

Arcadia has two churches—one Methodist Episcopal and one Lutheran Church—and one four-room schoolhouse. In Fraternal Organizations there are lodges of the Knights of Pythias, Rathburn Sisters, Maccabes, and Modern Woodmen. There is also located here two doctors, one preacher and one undertaker. The Odd Fellows instituted a lodge here in July, 1874, and had a membership of forty-four, which has since moved to Fostoria.

The Lake Erie & Western Railroad was completed through Arcadia in the spring of

1859. The N. Y., C. & St. L. Railway commenced laying its tracks here on the 28th of May, 1881, and on the 2nd day of June the cars ran across Main Street. The Toledo, Fostoria and Findlay Electric Line runs parallel with the Lake Erie and Western from Findlay to Fostoria.

The town of Arcadia was incorporated in 1859, at which time George W. Kimmel was elected mayor, and Dr. D. B. Spahr, clerk. The office of mayor has since been filled by the following persons: Jacob Peters, Joseph Dillery, E. B. Warner, C. E. Jordan, J. E. Beeson, A. D. Harbaugh, George Stahl, J. W. Fisher, Joseph Dillery, Henry Ludwig, William Karn, J. B. Gordon, R. F. Taylor, Ad. Huffman, J. E. Bricker, W. H. Dillery, the last mentioned being the present incumbent. Joseph Dillery was elected mayor five times and J. E. Bowman was six times elected clerk.

In 1859 a post office was established here with A. W. Frederick, postmaster, who has been succeeded by David Peters, Jacob Peters, William Karn, Joseph Smart, William Moffat, J. H. Beeson, W. Moore, J. H. Wheeland, Harrison Nye, A. M. Nye, and J. C. O'Neil. The last mentioned has resigned and C. W. Blake has been appointed to fill the office.

ARLINGTON.

This town was laid out in November, 1854, by Robert Hurd, Esq., on the southwest part of Section 6, and the southeast part of Section 1. It originally contained seventeen lots, but since its first platting, successive additions have been made, until now it is quite a village, its Main Street extending for a distance of one mile. It is located in Madison Township at the crossing of the Toledo and Ohio Central and Northern Ohio Railroads, and in consequence has ample passenger and shipping facilities. At present there is a good prospect of an extention of the T. G. & S. Electric through the town.

Upon the establishment of a post office here in 1846, Dr. B. Beach was appointed postmaster, and has been succeeded by L. P. Wing, E. B. Vail, W. K. Drake, Thomas Stark, Phillip Wilch, L. S. Lafferty, E. P. Lease, C. F. King, Holmes Wheeler, Levi W. Hinchey and the present incumbent N. D. Stein, who has held the office for the last six years.

The trade of the place was insignificant until after the location of the railroads, when it sprang up by leaps and bounds. The population in 1880 was one hundred and thirty-six, whereas in 1909 it is over five hundred.

In 1892 the town was incorporated and James Huff was the first mayor, he being succeeded in turn by Eli Bowman, Dr. Thomas B. Trovenger, Holmes Wheeler, Dr. John Trovenger, N. S. Wescot, L. E. Huston and the present mayor E. J. Pugh, now nearing the end of his second term.

The finance of the town is being looked after by the Farmers and Merchants Banking Company, incorporated under the laws of Ohio in 1900 with a capital stock of $25,000, surplus of $1,000, and resources of $112,000. The officers are Pres., R. J. Dorney; Vice-Pres., B. G. Bibler; Cashier, H. O. Fellers; and Assist. Cashier, Miss D. Dorcas Dorney. The company owns its own building, a fine pressed brick and glass front, with upper rooms for rent. Societies

are represented by the Odd Fellows, with Rebeccas, Maccabees and Ladies, Knights of Pythias with Pythian Sisters, Grand Army of the Republic and Sons of Veterans with the Lady auxiliaries, Modern Woodmen of America.

There are three general stores, two hardware stores, one drug store, one hotel and three restaurants, one shoe store, one clothing store, one furniture store, two milliner stores, one harness shop, one meat market, two grain elevators, two livery barns, two pool rooms, one confectionery store, one bakery, one moving picture show, four barber shops, three blacksmiths, and two coal yards. There are also one saw-mill, with planing-mill attached, one hoop factory, one tinner and roofer, and a stone-crusher on the confines of the village. One stock yard is located here from which are shipped an estimate of one hundred car loads of stock each year, Mr. Isaac Bishop being the main shipper.

Arlington is supplied with four churches, one Methodist Protestant, one Methodist Episcopal, one German Lutheran and one English Lutheran, with two resident pastors. Three physicans look after the physical welfare of the people both in town and the surrounding country. The village prides itslf on having a good schoolhouse of six rooms and an enumeration of two hundred and forty scholars.

In a business as well as in a social way, Arlington is certainly a lively town of its size, and the residents take great pride in the advantages they enjoy. Of course the bulk of the trade is maintained by the farming community, which here is a source of unfailing wealth in this productive country.

Of the twenty-five rural mail routes in the county, Arlington has two—Nos. 14 and 15—that carry the mail to the surrounding farm community.

Arlington also has a municipal Electric Light Plant, built by the town at a cost of $14,000, with which it lights its own streets and furnishes electric lighting to its citizens at a fair rate.

The Arlingtonian, a bright newspaper, is edited by Frank Bitler, who is equal to the task of demonstrating to the public how to run a newspaper.

BENTON RIDGE.

The town of Benton Ridge is situated on the gravely ridge running from Findlay west into Putnam County, and nine miles in a south-westerly direction from Findlay. It was laid out in November, 1835, by William Mires, on the east half of the northwest quarter of Section 35, and was originally composed of but thirty-six lots. In 1855 William Powell made an addition of five lots, and in 1867 he made a further addition of eleven lots, and in 1868 he made a third addition of ten lots. The town was named in honor of the sturdy Missouri Senator, Thomas Hart Benton, who served that State uninterruptedly as U. S. Senator from 1821 to 1851, and was contemporaneous with Clay, Calhoun and Webster. The location is beautiful and healthy, and is surrounded by a rich and productive agricultural country.

The immediate vicinity of the town was settled at a very early day by the Powells—William, Jacob, John and Daniel—David M. Baldwin, Jacob Engle, Solomon Foglesong,

Knepper, Michael Fisher, Owen Hughs and other like enterprising frontiersmen.

The business of the town is confined principally to supplying the surrounding country with some of the most necessary articles of trade. Not having as yet any convenient railroad facilities (a branch of the C. H. & D.—now in the interest of the Baltimore & Ohio system—passing a mile and a quarter north of the village), the town has made advancement slowly, but has held its own, with a steady trend to improvement in building and trade.

A post office was established here in 1840, called Benton Ridge, and D. M. Baldwin, William Miller, Phillip Ballard, Isaac Sperow, M. Merchant, T. J. Saunders, J. G. Saunders, J. H. Saunders, H. W. Hughes, Peter Baldwin, Newton Cherry and J. H Whistler (the present incumbent), have held the office of postmaster.

In 1875 the town was incorporated as a hamlet for special purposes of police protection, and later as a town, with R. S. Palmer as mayor, followed by William Brown, William Wittenmyer, E. M. Jones, A. D. Whistler, Frank Alword, John Westley Powell, Byron E. Powell and the present incumbent, Amos Wittenmyer.

The business of the town consists of two general stores, two meat markets, two drug stores—a small stock kept by each of the two doctors—two barber shops, two blacksmith shops with wagon and carriage repair, with one each of hotel, restaurant, tin shop, bakery, photograph gallery and jewelry, furniture store, fence material dealer, two coal dealers, saw and planing-mill, and a cement block factory.

Benton Ridge is supplied with the Farmers, Bell and Home telephones, with a local exchange of two hundred phones. They have two churches, Methodist Episcopal and Evangelical, one resident minister and two doctors.

The special school district, which composes not only the village, but a large extent of the surrounding farming country, have built a beautiful and commodious pressed-brick schoolhouse at the eastern end of town, with a cement basement and two stories above, comprising four rooms. Surrounding the building are spacious playgrounds and shade trees for the pleasure of the pupils. The enumeration is about one hundred and seventy of school age. The present population of the town is four hundred.

CANNONSBURG.

This town, located in Union Township, was founded by Benjamin Marshall, Franklin Ballard, William McConnell and James C. Marshall. It was laid out on the east part of Section 35 and the west part of Section 36 and consisted of 36 lots, with two streets, or rather roads, crossing at right angles. At one time it was a place of considerable neighborhood importance, and the author has been informed more than forty years ago by some of the then oldest inhabitants that they remembered the time when it was as large as Findlay then was. But it never rose to the dignity of more than a small country village. Railroads came just near enough to it to ruin what trade it had.

In 1867, the author commenced the practice of medicine in this village, and at that time it had two general stores, one grocery

and drug store, two churches, two wagon and buggy shops, one blacksmith shop, one grist-mill, one shoemaker, one preacher and three doctors. But all these have passed and in 1908, three of the four corners were planted in crops, and it resembled Goldsmith's "Deserted Village."

A post office was established here in 1841, with Thompson Bartell as postmaster, since which time E. P. Leslie, H. P. Eaton, D. W. Cass, Fuller Ballard, Henry Lue, J. D. Buss, J. A. Combs, Sr., J F. Steinman, J. A. Kimmell, J. A Combs, Jr, and Lydia A. Rossman have held the office. The office was discontinued several years ago.

DEWEYVILLE.

Deweyville was laid out by John B. Williams on the south part of the west part of the southwest quarter of the northwest quarter, and the north part of the west part of the west half of the southwest quarter of Section 15, Pleasant Township. The plat of said village consisting of 40 lots, was acknowledged June 5, 1880, before Edwin Phifer, surveyor, and recorded July 19th, 1880, by Joseph F. Guntzwiler, recorder. This village has not been incorporated.

FINDLAY.

Findlay, now the county seat of Hancock County, was first laid out in the year 1821, by Joseph Vance and Elnathan Cory, and in the autumn of the same year, Wilson Vance and family removed to the place. Mr. Vance was soon joined by Squire Carlin, William Taylor, John Patterson, W. L. Henderson, John Boyd, Reuben Hales and Parlee Carlin, with others, so that in a few years quite a village had sprung up.

The town was replatted in 1829, and on the 26th of September of that year, Joseph Vance and Elnathan Cory appeared before Judge McKinnis, one of the associate judges of the county, and acknowledged the platting of the town of Findlay, consisting of 156 lots of fifty by two hundred feet. The town plat was located on Section 13, in Township 1 north, Range 10 east.

The lands in this section—598 acres in all—were entered in parcels of fifty-five acres by Vance, Neil and Cory, seventy-six acres by McIlvain and Neil, seventy-five acres by Asa M. Lake, eighty-eight acres by John Gardner, one hundred and twenty-seven acres by Elnathan Cory, seventy-nine acres by James Gilruth, and eighty acres by Joseph Westenhaver. John Gardner received a patent for his, dated June 3rd, 1822, signed by President James Monroe. He afterwards sold to Thomas and John Simpson, and they to Wilson Vance, March 14th, 1828. This tract was the west part of the southeast quarter of Section 13, and contained eighty-eight acres. The consideration by Vance to the Simpsons was three hundred dollars. The east part of the southeast quarter, was owned by Vance, Neil and Cory, and was that part of the section on which the town was laid out. The lots numbered on Main Street, from north to south. The lot now occupied by the old Squire Carlin residence—corner of Main and Front Streets, southwest—was No. 1, and the business room of J. S. Patterson & Sons, corner of Main and Sandusky Streets, No. 16, the then southern boundary of the town. In these numbers, from one to sixteen, the Public Square, now the Courthouse Square, was not counted. There were seventy-six lots on the west side of Main Street, the lot on the corner of Front and West Streets being the last number on that side.

On the east side of Main Street, the lot occupied by the Tavern Hotel, is numbered twenty-seven, and on South Main Street the lot on the northeast corner of Main and Sandusky Streets, now occupied by the Frey Drug Co., was numbered ninety-six. There were eighty lots on the east side of Main Street, ending with No. 156, owned by the late Mrs. W. C. Cox, and on the corner of Front and East Streets. No part of the land between Front Street and the river was laid out into lots at that time.

The following certificate of Wilson Vance, surveyor, was attached to the town plat:

"1st. All streets and alleys cross at right angles due north and south."

"2nd. Main Street is one hundred feet wide.

"3rd. Broadway (the space between Main-Cross and Front Streets north of the rear end of the Court House) is one hundred and fifteen and a half wide.

"4th. Main-Cross Street is eighty-two and one-half feet wide.

"5th. Crawford, Putnam, Front, Back (now Sandusky), East and West Streets are each sixty-six feet wide.

"6th. Farmers and Mechanics alleys are each thirty-three feet wide, and all other alleys are sixteen and one-half feet wide."

Attached to the plat, by the proprietors, Vance and Cory, was the following acknowledgment:

"The public grounds, streets and alleys, are to the best of our knowledge, correctly designated by the notes attached to said plat, and are appropriated as public ways for the benefit of said town, and to no other use whatever."

Thirty-nine lots were donated to the county commissioners, in trust, to be sold, the proceeds arising from such sale to be used in the construction of county buildings. The ground known as the Public Square was not named as one of the lots donated for county purposes, and by the terms of the acknowledgment above referred to it was appropriated for public use for the benefit of the town and it so remains, unless a subsequent contract with the proprietors, or the town authorities, placed it in the hands of the county commissioners, of which I have not been able to find a record.

On the 10th day of October, 1829, the commissioners of Hancock County, met "for the purpose of taking into their care their proportion of the town lots of Findlay, which were deeded to said commissioners, by Joseph Vance and Elnathan Cory, and said Charles McKinnis and John P. Hamilton, present, ordered that the aforesaid lots be offered at public sale, on the ninth day of November next. It is further ordered, that the county auditor advertise said sale." On November 9th, 1829, the commissioners, Charles McKinnis and John P. Hamilton, present, proceeded to sell the above mentioned lots, and the following sales were made: Lots 2, 8, 9, 13, 17, 26, 29, 32, 43, 46, 51, 61, 79, 86, 89, 92, 95, 98, 104, 105, 108, 111, 116, 142, 146, 148, 156, sold for prices ranging from five dollars for No. 148, to two hundred dollars for No. 8. The aggregate received was $1,025.40. The first frame house in the town was built by Squire Carlin, and stood on the same lot on which he afterward built the brick house on the southwest corner of Main and Front Streets, and now used for business purposes. This same frame building was afterwards moved to the east side of South Main Street on the north side of the alley between Hardin and Lincoln Streets, and at the present owned by John Parker.

The second frame building was erected by William Taylor, who occupied it as a dwelling, hotel and dry goods store. This building stood on the lot adjoining the Davis Opera House, on the south. Many years ago it was removed to the west end of Sandusky Street, where it was burned down. It was about twenty-five feet square and a story and a half high. As Mr. Squire Carlin built the first frame building, so he also built the first brick building in the town, on the lot aforementioned. This too he used as a dwelling and dry goods store.

Benjamin Cox, the first resident of the town, was also the first tavern keeper, carrying on business in a log house, on the east side of Main Street, between Front Street and the river bridge. The town was then a straggling village of log huts, with streets and alleys impassable the greater part of the year, and with no business to talk of, except some traffic with the Indians and now and then the task of entertaining a lone traveler in his search for a home in the wilderness. As the population increased and buildings multiplied, more room was wanted, and additions were demanded, land holders adjoining the old town platted and offered for sale numbers of lots.

In February, 1830, William Byall's addition of twenty lots was laid out. This addition was on the south side of Sandusky Street, east of Main Street. In 1837 Joseph and Elnathan Cory laid out an addition of forty lots. In 1840 John C. Howard laid out eleven lots, Jonathan Parker eight lots. Cory's addition of thirteen lots was laid out and Baldwin's addition of twelve lots and Vance and Cory's addition of seventy-eight lots were laid out in 1848.

S. & P. Carlin's addition, on the south side of East Sandusky Street, was made in 1848 and consisted of thirty-nine lots and in 1852 they made another addition of twenty-eight lots. An addition of fourteen lots was made in 1854 by Nathan Miller. A sub-division of out-lots was made by J. M. Coffinberry, and Wilson Vance made an addition of 113 lots in the same year. Hurd's addition of four lots and the Western Addition were laid out in 1855.

Byal's second addition was made in 1860 and Vance's addition of 111 lots was made the same year. Cory's addition to Vance and Cory's addition was laid out in 1863. The continuation of Vance and Cory's of forty-four lots was made in 1866. E. Barnd made an addition in 1868. Another continuation of Vance and Cory's was made in 1869. Jones and Adams addition was laid out in 1873 and in 1875 P. Carlin made an addition of seventeen lots.

These various additions met with a ready sale, and are now occupied for the most part by beautiful residences and fine busines houses. Pleasant streets, substantial sidewalks and beautiful grounds all tell of the energy and industry of the owners. The tract of land occupied by these additions was at the early settlement of the place scarcely more than a swamp or swale, worth at most no more than government price, but is now worth many hundreds of thousands of dollars.

EAST FINDLAY.

But the old town and these many additions do not comprise the whole of the town of Findlay. East Findlay—an addition to Findlay—was laid out by James H. Wilson in August, 1847, on the north part of the west half of the northwest quarter of Section 19 and comprised but forty lots. In 1863 the proprietor laid

out an addition of thirty-five lots and thirteen out-lots which he designated as the continuation of East Findlay. In October of the same year, Cory's addition to East Findlay consisting of eleven lots, was laid out, and in 1866 Cory laid out nine lots more, and in 1873 he added nineteen additional lots. This addition, or suburb of Findlay, which comprises all that part of the town east of Eagle Creek, is pleasantly located and the principal streets, running east and west, correspond with like streets of the main town. There are a number of comfortable residences here. The streets are wide and bordered with shade trees. There are several manufacturing establishments here, which are noticed elsewhere in this work. The children of this part of town attend school at the Huber building.

Eagle Creek which divides this from the main town, is spanned by three bridges, one at Main Street, one at Sandusky Street and one at Lincoln Street. Along the creek were numerous stone quarries from which a very large portion of the stone used for building and other purposes was taken. In this part of town are located the "Eagle Mills." Also East Lawn, the beautiful residence built by M. B. Patterson, Esq.—a most charming place—is also located on east end of Sandusky Street. The building is a two-story frame with basement, built in a tasteful style of architecture, and surrounded by ample grounds highly ornamented with shrubbery. The grounds also contain a large greenhouse, filled with the rarest plants and flowers, and a beautiful island, surrounded by an ample fish pond. The whole is surrounded by a nicely trimmed hedge.

The magnificent home built by H. H. Albon stands just across the street, on an eminence commanding an extensive view of the town and surrounding country. It is one of the handsomest homes in the county. There are a number of other well arranged and comfortable private residences in this part of town. The ground on which the town is located is high and slightly rolling with a warm, sandy soil. A great many of the business men of the town reside here.

Eagle Mills, the extensive flouring establishment, formerly under the management of McConnell & Kirk, and now owned and operated by David Kirk and Sons, are located here and do a very large business, in the way of merchant and custom work. These mills have long been one of the industries of the town and under whatever management they have been, their work has always been satisfactory. Immense amounts of wheat is here floured and shipped to eastern markets and has always been considered of the best brand.

There was formerly an engine-house here, in which was kept one of the engines of the town under the management of an efficient volunteer company, which has now passed out of existence.

NORTH FINDLAY.

North Findlay, situated on the north side of the river, and a part of the town of Findlay, was laid out in 1854 by William Taylor, who was one of the first settlers of the county and for more than forty years a resident of Findlay. It never had a separate existence as a town. The plat of the original town of North Findlay is in the southwest corner of the west half of the northwest quarter of fractional Section 18 and consisted originally of forty-seven lots. Lot number one is on the northeast corner of Main Street and Center Street (or Tiffin road) and the plat from thence extends

north and east. The lots in the original town are nearly all occupied by good substantial dwelling houses and public buildings.

An addition of sixty lots on the west side of Main Street was laid out in July, 1857, by A. F. and D. M. Vance of Urbana, Ohio. This plat had some very desirable building lots and although it was at that time a considerable distance from the main town, lots sold readily and were soon occupied as dwelling places. Just south of this addition was quite a body of land used at that time for farming and pasturage purposes, which was the property of William Vance, of Urbana. Mr. Vance yielding to the demands for platting and selling this tract, in September, 1859, divided the ground into sixty-two lots with the necessary streets and alleys. These lots sold readily and at very good prices.

The land on the east side of Main Street between the river and the Tiffin road, was owned by Judge D. J. Cory, and as this tract separated the new town of North Findlay from the old town, he in March, 1861, laid out nineteen lots, one tier facing on Main Street and one on Center Street. These lots were in immediate demand and sold readily. And almost every one is now the site of a good dwelling house. Such is the beauty of this location, and the character of the improvements thereon, that Main and Center Streets in North Findlay have been long acknowledged as one of the most picturesque spots in the town.

In October, 1860, Edson Goit having purchased the lands adjoining A. F. and D. M. Vance's addition, on the north, laid out twenty-seven lots; and in June, 1864, he added thirty more. William B. Taylor and Aaron Hall became the owners of a parcel of land directly west of Goit's addition and laid out fifteen lots in 1866.

In November, 1874, Judge Cory laid out sixteen lots fronting on Center Street, east of his first addition. And about the same time P. and M. Taylor laid out an addition on the east side of Main Street north of the original plat, and Gray and Patterson laid out lots fronting on Center Street, and on the north side of that street. Thus by successive additions, each addition to satisfy purchasers, has North Findlay become quite an important part of the town of Findlay. The town is regularly laid out, the streets and alleys crossing at right angles. The streets east of Main, commencing at the south are Center, Cherry, and Walnut. Those on the west are Fiar, High, Donolson, Corwin, Fillmore, and Howard. Running parallel with Main are Cory and Clinton.

The Lake Erie and Western Railroad passes through this part of the town. North Findlay is connected with the main town by the magnificent river bridge on Main Street. Whilst there are no pretentions to grandeur in architectural design or magnificence in finish, yet there are very many tasty and comfortable dwellings in this part of town. The streets are beautified by hundreds of shade trees, principally maple and when in leaf, they present a cool and inviting appearance.

On the 17th day of March, 1838, the Legislature of Ohio passed "An Act to incorporate the town of Findlay, in Hancock County." The first section of that act provided that "So much of the township of Findlay, in the county of Hancock, as herein described, to-wit: The S. E. part of the S. E. quarter of fractional Section No. 13, Township 1 north, of Range 11, so far east as the bank of Eagle Creek; also the east half

of the N. E. quarter of Section 24, Township 1 north, of Range 10, and also what territory of the N. W. quarter of Section 19 as is situated southwest of Carlin's mill-race, be and the same is hereby created a town corporate, and shall be hereafter known by the name of the town of Findlay." Section 2nd provides for an election at the court house, on the first Saturday in April next, to elect a mayor, recorder and five councilmen.

An act to repeal the charter of the town of Findlay, was passed March 13th, 1843. Why, or by what influence this last act was passed, we are unable to say.

The Legislature, on the 4th of March, 1845, passed another act, entitled "An Act to repeal the act entitled 'An Act to repeal the charter of the town of Findlay,' passed March 13th, 1843, and to declare in force the act incorporating said town, passed March 7th, 1838."

The business of laying out, opening up and improving streets, was carried on through the different administrations and economy in expenditures, and a freedom from indebtedness, characterized the conduct of our municipal affairs previous to the advent of what is now known as the "gas boom," but since that important epoch the same rule of economy has not been observed, and extravagance and its consequent indebtedness have been the rule instead of the exception. Speculators in real estate obtained a majority in the municipal councils and, in order to dispose of the real estate with which they were loaded, imposed expensive burdens on the tax payer. Much of the present debt, however, was run up in the building of water works, in paving streets, building schoolhouses, a high school and a city building.

The following persons held the office of mayor previous to 1858, but owing to the loss of records we cannot give the exact order in which they were elected. John Adams, W. L. Henderson, Abraham Younkin, O. A. Ogden, N. Y. Mefford, Josiah S. Powell, Jacob Carr, and perhaps others. In 1858 Charles Carroll Pomeroy, late of Kentucky, and a most eccentric young man, was elected, but resigned before the end of his term, being succeeded by Ezra Brown. Since then the following persons have held the office of mayor and clerk:

Mayors—Ezra Brown, 1859; Israel Green, 1860; G. W. Twining, 1861, 1863; Jacob Carr, 1864, 1866; N. W. Filkin, 1867; J. A. Bope, 1868, 1869; G. F. Pendleton, 1870; D. B. Beardsley, 1872; Wm. Gribben, 1874; Jacob Carr, 1876; Wm. Vance, 1878, 1880; William W. Siddell, 1882, 1884; Wm. L. Carlin, 1886, 1888; J. R. Kagy, 1889; The. Totten, 1890; Thomas Mehan, 1892; B. W. Waltermire, 1894; Georg Nemeyer, 1896; D. T. Winders, 1898; Geo. Nemeyer, 1900; C. E. Watson, 1902; C. B. Metcalf, 1904; J. B. Walker, 1906, 1908; E. Lincoln Groves, 1910 —.

Clerks—S. F. Gray, 1859; Wm. Klamroth, 1860; H. S. Shannon, 1861; J. P. Dennis, 1862; Sam Huber, 1863; B. F. Kimmons, 1864, 1865, 1866; J. C. Martin, 1867; D. H. Pugh, 1868; E. G. DeWolfe, 1869; Lem McManniss, 1870; J. W. Davidson, 1872; Jesse Wheeler, 1874; J. A. Meeks, 1876; W. T. Platt, 1878, 1880, 1882, 1884; Jacob H. Boger, 1886, 1888, 1889; W. R. Black, 1890; Marion G. Foster, 1892; S. P. DeWolf, 1894,

1896; A. W. Ray, 1898, 1900, 1902; J. C. Eddie, 1904, 1906, 1908.

THE FINDLAY PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The Findlay Public Library threw open its doors to the citizens of Findlay, January 27, 1890. It was an outgrowth of a small library conducted by an association interested in the circulation of books in the community. An act was passed April 16, 1888, by the General Assembly of Ohio, authorizing the establishment of a public library and the election of a library board of trustees, consisting of six members, three from each of the two political parties. The members of the first library board consisted of C. B. Metcalf, president; W. D. McCoughey, J. A. Kagy, W. H. Wagner, Sam W. Mills and Mr. Adams.

The southeast double basement room of the court house was granted by the commissioners for the use of a library and with a nucleus of 900 books from the association, the present library was inaugurated. Miss Nellie Baker was elected librarian. A small fee was charged for the privilege of borrowing the books and it was not until January, 1905, that the system of free library books was established. An additional room was secured from the commissioners to meet the growing demands of the library.

The library now contains over 8,000 volumes with an average circulation of 3,500 per month. Miss May Morrison the present librarian succeeded Miss Nellie Baker in 1902. Miss Ella Maxwell is assistant librarian. The present board of trustees consists of S. H. McLeod, president, Prof. J. F. Smith, Prof. C. T. Fox, Mr. W. S. Neeley, Mrs. G. W. Ross and Mrs. G. F. Pendleton.

FINDLAY COLLEGE.

Findlay College, among the most recent additions to the schools of Findlay, is among the leading educational institutions of Ohio. While the establishment of a college, under the auspices of the Church of God had been in contemplation for many years, the initial movement looking to that end took definite shape in a resolution introduced at the general eldership held at Findlay in 1881. That body authorized the committee on education to take the proper steps to form an incorporation and to select a location for the proposed institution. Findlay was selected as the most appropriate site for the college, and on January 23, 1882, articles of incorporation were filed with the secretary of State, "Findlay College" being the name adopted. The incorporators were Jeremiah M. Corvell, Robert L. Byrnes, Isaac Schrader, Tobias Koogle, Jacob M. Cassel, Anderson C. Heck, John C. Strickler and George F. Pendleton, the four last mentioned being citizens of Hancock County. February 8, 1882, the articles of incorporation were signed and the board of trustees organized by electing Isaac Frazer, president; Eli G. DeWolfe, secretary; and E. P. Jones, treasurer. The first annual meeting of the board was held at Findlay, June 21, 1882, when a permanent organization was effected.

The site selected for the institution was a ten-acre tract lying about one mile north of the court house, situated on the west side of Main Sreet and surrounded on all sides by streets 50 feet in width. This ground was deeded to the Findlay College, July 23, 1882, by Samuel Howard and others; the

same being paid for by private donations from the people living on the north side. On Ocotber 18, 1882, the board met for the purpose of considering plans for a college building when those submitted by Mr. Rumbaugh were accepted. The architect was directed to prepare complete plans and specifications and sealed proposals for the erection of said building were ordered to be advertised for. March 6, 1883, the bids were opened, but none were accepted for the reason that they were not within the $40,000 limit which the board by previous resolutions had fixed. The contract was finally let June 20, 1883, to Pierce & Coleman for the sum of $49,000 to be finished according to the plans and specifications. The work was soon afterwards commenced and on Sunday the 25th day of May, 1884, the corner-stone was laid with imposing ceremonies, in the presence of a large number of people. The college was not complete until late in the year 1886, but notwithstanding this fact the college was opened Wednesday, September 1, 1886, with very appropriate ceremony and started off with nearly one hundred pupils enrolled. This edifice of education is now considered one of the finest in the state, and is fully equipped and when completed ready for business cost about $65,000. Under the present management of Rev. Brown, it bids fair to excel any institution of its kind in the state.

THE NEW HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING.

The New High School building had its birth October 18, 1899, when E. C. Miller, N. M. Adams, Ed. Dietsch, Charles A. Ebling, Timothy Fellers, T. E. Gillespie, F. W. Karg, W. W. Shuler, A. W. Brown, and Alvin S. Thomas, members of the board of education of Findlay, passed a resolution to hold an election on November 17th, 1899, at the assembly room to decide the question of levying a tax of $50,000 to purchase a site and erect a high school building. The vote resulted as follows: For high school building, 1,131; against high school building, 446. January 23, 1900, on the seventh ballot, the board decided on West Main Cross Street as the site by a vote of 9 to 5 and ordered the advertisement of bond sale to take place March 1, 1900; said bonds to bear interest at the rate of 4 per cent, payable semi-annually. At the same meeting the board accepted the offer of Sarah F. and Foster Geyer for lots 41, 42, and east half of 43 at $7,500; the west half of 43 of heirs of Elizabeth Snyder at $1,500 and 44 of Minerva Snyder at $3,500, possession to be given not later than March 1, 1900. Cramer and Harpster were employed as architects on January 26, 1900, and at the same session a resolution was adopted offering $25,000 of the bonds to the city at par, also a resolution to advertise for bids for heating said building, to be received until noon, March 5, 1900. The city council at its session held Feb. 7, 1900, accepted the offer of the board of education on the $25,000 worth of bonds and ordered the same to be purchased out of the Gas Bond Redemption Fund, which acceptance was received and adopted by the board, February 16, 1900. At this meeting the plans and specifications of Kramer and Harpster were presented and adopted. On March 5, 1900, the bids for the heating plant were opened and examined and with various exchanges of oratory of various members of

the board, lasted four sessions. Nothing, however, was done until March 30, when all bids heretofore received were rejected. April 6, 1900, the board of education passed a resolution for bids for the erection of the new high school building, said bids to be received up to noon of May 11, 1900. On said date the bids were opened and examined and upon the consideration the contracts were awarded May 22, as follows: George J. Horn for excavation, sewers, stone mason work, brick work, plumbing, carpenter work, painting and glazing, structural iron work and electrical work $36,630. J. J. Dutweiler, galvanized iron roofing, curbstone work, and plastering $5,900, total $36,530. At the meeting of the board of education held May 25, 1900, the building and grounds committee reported the refusal of Mr. Dutweiler to enter into contract and the board ordered the entire contract awarded to F. Wentz & Co., of Canal Dover, Ohio, for $6,425 and the contract was entered into and bond given June 22. August 17, 1900, the bids for the second $25,000 bonds were opened and the bonds awarded to the Groghan Bank of Fremont, Ohio, for $25,085 and accrued interest. The building progressed slowly and the final amount paid to the contractor August 23, 1901; the city board reserving $500 until the building was accepted. This amount was not paid until March 6, 1903, which formally accepted the building. The entire cost of the building under the contract was $38,481.23; of this amount $186.23 was extras caused by changes in the original plans. The furniture cost $2,620.50 and the curb, driveways and walks put in by C. B. Metcalf $675.00, making the entire cost of the building ready for occupancy, including the grounds $54,276.73.

August 31, 1901, Findlay accepted the beautiful new high school building as its own—built for the public today and for posterity in the days to come. The dedicatory services were opened by a grand chorus of America, participated by the entire audience. Rev. Manchester invoked the divine blessing. Speeches appropriate for the occasion were delivered by various persons of renown, among whom was the Hon. Mr. Bonebrake, state commissioner of common schools. The school opened on Monday, September 2, 1901, with a large attendance of pupils and from all indications Findlay High School bids fair to equal any of its character in this grand state of ours. Here education, the foundation of our civilization, receives its finishing touches and starts the pupils on the highway to success.

THE GAS AND OIL INDUSTRY.

Although the subject of Natural Gas and Oil belongs to the history of the county at large, yet, as it affected the status of Findlay more than the country where these important products were obtained, we will place its history in the article on Findlay.

This never-to-be-forgotten industry, which caused such excitement the country over, and increased our little village of 4,000 inhabitants to a city of 18,000 population as if the wand of some powerful magician had been passed over our heads and the words "hocus pocus" pronounced with great emphasis, was the supposed everlasting natural gas and oil.

In the autumn of 1836, Mr. Richard Wade, who entered the west half of the southeast quarter of Section 6 in Jackson Township, this

county, April 7th, 1836, while digging a well on his farm, and having reached the depth of ten feet, found plenty of water, but the well was abandoned on account of such a strong flow of gas as to render it unfit for use. Mr. Wade conveyed the gas through a wooden box to the end of which he attached a piece of iron tubing, which he would light in order to exhibit the phenomenon to neighbors and visitors.

Two years later, or in the autumn of 1838, Daniel Foster put down a well on the lot now owned by J. M. Curtis, being lot number 171 and situated just north of the present Donnell Block. At the depth of eight feet he struck a very strong vein of gas and had to suspend operations. Covering it over he placed a pump tube, extending under his house from an opening in the well to a point near the chimney and then boring a hole through the floor attached a musket barrel to the pump tube, through which the gas was conducted to near the mouth of the open fireplace. This was the first time that natural gas was utilized in the county, though there were other places in this vicinity where gas was found in wells dug for water supply.

Dr. Charles Oesterlin was the man who had most to do with inaugurating the great gas boom. As early as 1850 he became earnestly convinced and argued that underlying the village was a great natural gas deposit which could be developed by drilling through the supervening rock strata, but the people only laughed and intimated that he was crazy. Dr. Oesterlin, however, continued to advocate his belief until it developed into an absolute fact. While serving in the state legislature Mr. Oesterlin called on the state geologists and informed them that in his opinion their survey of northwestern Ohio was not exactly complete, and that a mighty bed of natural gas lay undeveloped in the vicinity of Findlay. The geologists learnedly replied that whatever natural gas existed at Findlay came from Michigan underneath the bed of Lake Erie and there was not sufficient gas to pay for sinking wells. The doctor bluntly told them they were all mistaken, and time would prove the correctness of his statement, which, in truth, it did.

Early in 1884 Dr. Oesterlin determined to make an effort to organize a company to prospect for natural gas, and approached a number of the citizens and business men with his proposition. The result was that April 18, 1884, articles of incorporation, under the name of "The Findlay Natural Gas Company," were drawn up, signed and acknowledged by Dr. Charles Oesterlin, Charles J. Eckels, Fred H. Glessner, Henry Porch, George W. Kimmel and Peter Kunz in the presence of Jason Blackford and Vincent H. Coons and three days afterwards filed in the office of the secretary of state. The capital stock was $5,000 divided into 100 shares of $50 each.

On the 30th of April the eight citizens of Findlay previously named together with U. K. Stringfellow and John H. Decker entered into a private agreement "to prospect for natural gas, petroleum, coal, minerals and artesian wells (all of which the charter covered) in and about the village of Findlay, Ohio," and share all profits arising therefrom. The subscription book for stock opened July 19, and on the 25th Dr. Charles Oesterlin took fifteen shares, Charles J. Eckles ten; Fred H. Glessner, five; George W. Kimmel, five; U. K. Stringfellow, five; Jason Blackford, two, and Henry Porch, two. Subsequently the following named persons took stock in the enterprise: A. C. Heck, John Ruthrauff, J. W. Zeller, W. H. Faven,

FINDLAY COLLEGE, FINDLAY

ENTRANCE TO MAPLE GROVE CEMETERY, FINDLAY

RESIDENCE PORTION, SOUTH MAIN STREET, FINDLAY

CORY STREET WALK, WEST OF COLLEGE CAMPUS, FINDLAY

W. T. Platt, Edward Dietsch, W. B. Porch, Ernest Bacher, William Edwards, J. W Gassman, Lemuel McManness, C. L. Cusac, Dr. Anson Hurd, John M. Hamlin, Frank Karst, Isaac Hershey, Brownyer & Martin, Mrs. Hariett Detwiler, Mrs. E. H. Young, and B. F. Bolton, some of whom, however, took very little interest in the progress of the work.

August 22, 1884, Dr. Charles Oesterlin, Charles J. Eckles, Henry Porch, Vincent H. Coons, George W. Kimmel, A. C. Heck and U. K. Stringfellow were chosen directors of the company for the ensuing year and at once organized by electing Henry Porch president; A. C. Heck, vice-president; Fred H. Glessner, secretary; George W. Kimmel, treasurer. On September 5th the contract for drilling was let to Brownmyer & Martin, of Bradford, Pennsylvania, at the following prices: $2,200, for 1,200 feet; $2,800 for 1,600 feet, and $3,200 for 2,000 feet. Messrs. Eckles, Coons and Stringfellow were appointed to select a location for the well and chose the site on the land of Dr. Oesterlin, in the east part of the town. Work was commenced at once and at a depth of 314 feet the first vein of gas was struck; the second at 516 feet; the third at 618 feet; oil at 718 feet and the general bed of gas at 1,092 feet. They, however, drilled on to a depth of 1,648 feet which was reached December 5, 1884, and operations stopped. The drilling of the well costing $2,825. Soon after the gas was piped into town and the use of natural gas became a reality. Derricks began to loom up in all directions and the news spread with rapidity over the entire country.

The town began to exhibit an intense and feverish activity. Speculators began to pour in from every direction; syndicates were formed, vast tracts of land were laid out into lots and sale were rapidly made at enormous prices. In the meanwhile other large gas wells were being brought forth by various parties and excitement was running at a very rapid speed, but on the morning of January 20, 1886, when the great Karg well broke forth with its tremendous roar, caused by the escape of 20,000,000 cubic feet of gas, imagine the excitement. The gas was placed under control January 25, 1886, and at an early hour the torch was applied. Then it was that a bright fiery flame shot upward toward the sky to a height of fully one hundred feet and the rushing noise could be heard for a distance of five miles. The light from the flame could be seen for a distance of fifty miles on a cloudy night, and for a considerable distance all about the well, the grass was growing with the luxuriance of May and the water in the river below, everywhere else covered with ice, was as blue and limpid as a lake.

In the autumn of 1886 manufacturing establishments began to locate here and inside of two years Findlay became one of the largest manufacturing cities in the state; glass factories, rolling mills, brick and tile factories, potteries, lantern works, tube works, wire nail factories, indeed all sorts of manufacturing establishments seemed to tumble over each other to gain a foothold in a place where gas seemed to be inexhausitble, and until the days of that great gas celebration over fifty manufacturing enterprises had established a foothold in the great gas center of the world.

June 8th, 9th and 10th, 1887, were probably the three greatest days that Findlay ever witnessed in all her history, for on them we celebrated magnificently the anniversary of the first application of natural gas to the mechanical arts. The first day a large procession headed

by five enormous bands formed in the front of the Chamber of Commerce, from which point they proceeded to and laid the corner stone of the Lagrange rolling mill amid appropriate ceremonies. Owing to the extreme heat the ceremony at this place was made to answer for the similar occasion at the Moore Chair factory, Union Boiler Works, Ohio Coil and Cable Chain Works, and Findlay Door and Sash factory. At 1:30 o'clock in the afternoon the same bands together with a larger procession marched to Camp Garfield at the Fair Grounds and enjoyed a very interesting time in a military contest.

Early in the evening the immense crowd of people who had come in on all the trains was largely augmented by our citizens from the country who came in to see the sights and long before dark the broad Main Street of our city was a living moving mass of humanity for over a mile in length. Doorways and windows and every point of observation were crowded. "What a magnificent sight," "What a wonderful spectacle," were the exclamations heard on every side when the gas was lighted on the many arches which spanned Main Street and when the gas was turned on in the standpipes from the wells the crowd for a moment stood quiet with fear and awe and then were heard murmurs, and exclamations of surprise on every hand.

The spectacle was grand beyond words to tell or brush to paint. There were eighteen arches spanning the streets, each with half a dozen flambeau flames from the top circle while on each side of the arch there were two dozen burners with different colored globes. Added to these were thousands of burners on the buildings along the streets and to this was added the roar and flames of a dozen gas wells. The stars in the heavens were paled with the effulgent light of nature's last and best gift to man—natural gas.

For three long-to-be-remembered days, did this gala affair last. Speeches, fireworks and contests were the order until the evening of the third day when the crowd began to disperse, the sound of music gradually died away and later on the stillness of night seemed to say "'tis done." This was the height of the great gas boom. It held up on a level for a year or more and with the decline of years the gas has gone glimmering. But thanks be to him who controls the affairs of man, oil has taken its place and in a more permanent and staple form.

Daniel Dixon, an old time citizen of Findlay, while passing by an old abandoned well near the present site of the rear of Frey's drug store, one winter morning in 1859, noticed a strong gaseous odor coming from it. The oil excitement was then at fever heat, owing to some very rich discoveries in Pennsylvania, and thinking that perhaps he had found a sign of the much sought for article Mr. Dixon procured an iron bar and began forcing it through the debris. A passerby who noticed his actions inquired the meaning of the vigorous probing. Mr. Dixon with a twinkle in his eye, responded, "It's oil, Squire, it's oil." In fact it was the odor of gas but the greasy substance that came with the gas was oil. In 1861 an oil company was organized with the following citizens as stockholders: Wm. H. Wheeler, Robert S. Mungen, U. G. Baker, C. A. Crominger, Albert Langworthy, David Croucher, H. P. Gage, E M. Burkle, Wm. Mungen, J. B. Horn & Co., Wm. Vanlue, Jesse Wolf, Frederick Henderson, George H. Crook, Israel Green, Jesse Guise, Henry Brown, Isaac Davis, Dr.

Bass Rawson and William C. Cox, all of whom are now dead.

The Company was organized by electing Israel Green president; Robert S. Mungen secretary, and E. M. Burkle, treasurer. The spot selected for the well was a few rods southeast of the Presbyterian Church, but this idea was abandoned owing to the breaking out of the war and was never resumed. In 1864 a well was started on the Jacob Carr property by two men from Calliopolis, Ohio, and sunk to the depth of 141 feet when the drill stuck and the well was abandoned. This was done by a spring pole process. Other oil companies were afterwards organized but nothing ever came of them until the drilling of the Oesterlin gas well in 1884 when at the depth of 718 feet a flow of oil was obtained.

The industry, however, did not develop to any large proportions until about August, 1886, owing probably to the low price of the powerful fluid. At present, go where you may over this grand county of ours and you will see oil derricks dotting the surface of the earth, in village-like formation, giving to the entire county an appearance of the top covering of one of the best oil reservoirs located anywhere in the Buckeye State. "Not only this, imagine the thousands upon thousands of dollars expended in prospecting for this hidden treasure; also the thousands upon thousands of dollars of reward in return; the hundreds of families and individuals who have made their fortune from some so called 'streak of luck,' and the hundreds of innocent children and loving wives fed and clothed from the profits realized from this rather undoubtful adventure. But long may she live and continue to bless the households of this, one of the greatest, grandest and noblest counties on the face of God's green earth."

An account of the banks and manufacturing industries of Findlay may be found in separate chapters of this volume under appropriate headings.

FOSTORIA.

This town, formerly known as Rome, in Seneca County, and Risdon in Hancock County, was laid out by John Gorsuch on the east part of the northeast quarter of Section 1 in Washington Township, Hancock County, and the west half of the northwest quarter of Section 6 in Louden Township, Seneca County. The plat of the present Fostoria, consisting of sixty lots, thirty in each county mentioned, was acknowledged September 6, 1832, before William L. Henderson, a justice of the peace, and recorded September 10, 1832, by Wilson Vance, recorder.

After a separate existence of about thirty-five years, the two towns were united under one name and named in honor of their eminent townsman, Hon. Charles Foster, born in Ohio in 1828, who was a member of Congress from 1870 to 1876, and served on the committee of Ways and Means. He was governor of Ohio from 1879 to 1883, and from 1891 to 1893 was secretary of the treasury in Harrison's cabinet. Fostoria has ample railroad facilities, having five steam roads converging and crossing here. as well as three out-going of electric lines. The town has a goodly number of important manufacturing plants, all in a prosperous condition. The population is about 8,000.

HOUCKTOWN.

This village, located in Jackson Township, and sometimes called North Liberty,

was laid out in April, 1853, by J. F. Houck, on the northwest part of the west half on the northwest quarter of Section 27, and originally consisted of fifteen lots. In 1867, John Doty and A. M. Houck made an addition of twenty-eight lots, and in 1869 six more lots were added by Jacob Hoy.

The place never assumed very large proportions or very much importance. It never advanced beyond the proportions of a cross-road village, and its business was entirely local, being confined to the trade of the immediate neighborhood. Its location is in the midst of a rich agricultural district, but remote from railroads. It has always contained the usual general store, blacksmith shop, shoe shop, etc.

There is one church and a schoolhouse and most of the time a physician has resided there to look after the wants of these bodily afflicted. The town, so far as improvements in the way of new buildings are concerned, is at a standstill, and the population is about one hundred.

In 1856 a post office was established here under the name of Houcktown, and the postmasters have been as follows: Robert Davidson, J. R. Babcock, John Garst, Israel Sampson, Eli Gorsuch and David Beagle. In 1904, owing to the establishment of the rural delivery service, the office was discontinued.

JENERA.

The record of the laying out of this town, of Van Buren Township, is dated April 14, 1883. The number of lots is not stated, but the ground allotted is given as seven and forty-hundred acres, about equally divided between Peter Traucht, Samuel Fellers and John Heldman. It is located on the Northern Ohio Railroad in a rich farming community, formerly known as the German Settlement, for the reason that almost all the pioneers were Germans from Hesse Darmstead, Germany. All were poor when they arrived in America, but with the characteristic German industry and frugality they soon cleared up the land, built fine houses and barns that for permanence and stability were better than the common average of buildings in the surrounding neighborhood.

A postoffice was established here in 1884 with George Pifer as first postmaster, followed by George Gasman, Adam Hull, Adam Gasman, William Diller, and Elmer Diller, the present incumbent. In 1892 the town was incorporated, and B. C. Steinman was the first mayor, followed by D. E. Hull, H. O. Fellers, Andrew Hull, and the present official Dr. John L. Higbie, who is at present serving his second term.

A private bank was opened up here in 1900, and did a good business until 1909, when it was incorporated under the laws of Ohio, with the following persons as directors: John VonStein, A. H. Good, John L. Higbie, Jacob VonStein, Adam VonStein, A. J. Gasman, and John Heldman. The officers are: President, John VonStein; Vice-President, John L. Higbie; Cashier, A. H. Good; and Assistant Cashier, Mrs. A. H. Good. The capital stock is $25,000 of which $15,000 is paid in.

The People's Telephone, a branch of the Bell Telephone Company, has been in operation here for nine years, and has an exchange of two hundred and fifty phones. It operates with seven other exchanges, and

nearly every farmer in the southern part of the county. Oscar Wise of Mt. Blanchard is the general superintendent.

The town has two general stores, two groceries, one hardware, harness and farm implement store, Farmer's Banking Company, one good brick hotel with modern appointments, such as heating plant, hot water, etc., one restaurant, one pool-room, meat market, shoe store, barber shop, planing-mill with wood work, saw-mill, paling and stave factory, feed and livery barn, grain elevator and coal yard.

There is an elegant brick church and parsonage belonging to the German Evangelical Lutheran Church and a good frame church building of the Methodist Protestant denomination. There are two resident ministers, two doctors and one undertaker. For the benefit of educational purposes there is a comfortable two-room schoolhouse and the Knights of the Maccabees have a thriving lodge here.

As previously mentioned, the people being descendants of the frugal Germans, are ambitious and industrious, thus driving business with a vim and intelligence that gives life and prosperity to the prosperous village of Jenera. The town was named in honor of Dr. A. B. Jener, the first physician to locate here.

MC COMB.

Benjamin Todd laid out a town on the northeast part of the west half of the northeast quarter of Section 26, in 1847, and called it Pleasantville. The town originally was composed of only eighteen lots. Afterwards successive additions were made by Mr. Todd, Ewing, Rawson and others. The town is pleasantly situated on the ridge running from Tiffin to Ft. Wayne, and about ten miles from Findlay. McComb is the largest town in the county outside of Findlay, and being situated in the midst of a good farming country, and having good railroad facilities has grown to be a place of considerable importance.

This town was incorporated in 1858, when the name was changed from Pleasantville to McComb. The first mayor was William Chapman.

For many years this town watched and waited for the completion of the Continental Railway, which had been graded for miles, both east and west of the village, alternately between hope and fear, the energies of the place became paralyzed, business gradually fell off, and a state of retrogression was setting in. The people, however, appreciating the situation, roused up and procured the building of the McComb and Deshler branch of the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton road, and thus obtained communication with the outside world, and, as if fortune was now determined to smile upon them, the Continental changed hands and under the name of the New York, Chicago & St. Louis Railroad was built through from Buffalo to Chicago, giving them splendid facilities for passengers and the shipment of freight. To say that the long expectant people of this village were jubilant but tamely expressed the situation. A post office was established here in 1847 with William Mitchell, Postmaster.

For a town of less than two thousand inhabitants, McComb has as much of a metropolitan

air and style as any other town of its size that the writer knows of. The main street is well paved with brick pavement, and the side streets are macadamized with stone, and all are kept in a cleanly condition. A number of permanent three-story buildings occupy the business portion of the town, and beautiful homes with well kept lawns adorn the residence portion.

In the line of business there are three good dry goods stores, three hardware stores, two drug stores, five groceries, one shoe store, one furniture store, two harness stores, two milliners, one feed store, two poultry and egg exchange and one hay shipper, one bakery, two meat markets, a hotel, a restaurant and a hotel. One state bank furnishes a place of deposit and exchange for the business men of this thriving place.

Religiously the people are provided with four churches—Methodist, Disciple, Presbyterian and Lutheran. For educational purposes they are provided with one room of common school and a high school of eight rooms, employing in all nine teachers. The industries consist of one tile mill, two lumber yards with mills, two grain elevators, one electric light plant, four blacksmith shops, Star water filter, Bell and home telephone, two livery barns, and other smaller shops.

The Odd Fellows were established here in 1859, and have a flourishing lodge, known as McComb Lodge No. 354. The Knights of Pythias, Woodmen of America, Maccabees and John Howard Post, G. A. R., are also represented. In professional lines, the following, named in the order in which their services are required: Five doctors, three ministers, one undertaker, and two attorneys. So that when the people of McComb are called to their fathers, in this, as well as in all things else, they are well prepared to meet the emergency.

The oldest man now living in the town is Abraham Rother, 87 years old, but the oldest continuous resident is Elisha Todd, 85, but he has been a resident constantly since 1833, a period of 76 years. Mr. Todd is a son of Benjamin Todd who laid out the town, and was a soldier in the 99th Regt., during the Civil War. Among the veterans of the late war might be mentioned Capt. Porter, son-in-law of George Algire, who entered the first land in the township, and Major Isaac Cusac, both formerly members of the 21st O. V. I.

MT. BLANCHARD.

In October, 1830, Asa M. Lake, one of the very earliest settlers of the county, laid out a town of fifty-three lots on a part of the west half of the northwest quarter of Section 1, and the east half of the northeast quarter of Section 2, and called it Mt. Blanchard. It is situated on the bluffs, on high ground on the east, or right hand bank of the Blanchard River. The location is a good one, surrounded by beautiful and rich farming lands. The town is regularly laid out in squares, the streets and alleys crossing at right angles. The buildings are mostly of wood, and the dwellings are commodious and comfortable. The town has beautifully shaded streets in the residence portion and the lawns in summer time are well kept, giving the village an air of comfort and grace not always found in towns of its size. The town was incorporated in 1865, and in this event it celebrated the closing of the Civil War. Dr. John Foster was the first mayor, since which time the following persons have held the office: H. C. Pickett, J. W. Turnpaugh, J. W.

Wingate, W. W. Hughs, A. F. Naus, Jacob Harris, R. W. McVary, Israel Bell, N. B. Clark, Isaac Snider, and at present, S. E. Lowe.

A postoffice was established here in 1834, with John P. Gordon as first postmaster, he being followed by Elijah Stradley, Chester Cook, W. W. Smith, J. Lafferty, J. Patterson, L. A. Baldwin, Henry Greer, C. H. Stewart, J. C. Treece, Jerome Smith, and the present officer, C. R. Burnett.

The Methodist Episcopal denomination built the first church in the town It was a frame building and built in 1838. The Rev. Thomas Thompson and Rev. Gavit, then missionaries at Upper Sandusky, were the first Methodist preachers. They organized a society at the residence of Father Greer, one half mile east of Mt. Blanchard, on the banks of Potato Creek where they continued to worship until a hewed log schoolhouse was built on a corner of the Greer land, in 1833 late in the fall, where they worshipped until they built their frame house in town in 1838, where they met for about twenty years, then moved in their present house, in the south part of town. At the present time there are two ornate and substantial church buildings in town, the Methodist Episcopal and the Methodist Protestant, both with thriving congregations and Sunday schools.

The first schoolhouse in the town was of the then prevailing style, built of round logs, with a huge fireplace, clapboard roof and other peculiarities not now known to builders. The Union School of Mt. Blanchard was organized in 1868, and a new house built and this was replaced by another building in 1873. This building contained three large schoolrooms beside smaller ones for recitation and other purposes. This building and grounds cost $8,000. In 1908 it was torn down and on the same grounds was built a fine light-colored, pressed brick structure of cement basement and four rooms on the second floor, which would be a credit to any village, town or even city, at a cost of over $15,000. It is furnished with an up-to-date heating plant and the most approved furniture. The Mt. Blanchard people are proud of their fine school building, as well they might be.

The village is located on the Northern Ohio Railroad, a division of the Lake Erie and Western R. R. and run under the management of the New York Central lines and at present has the right of way for an electric road extending from Findlay to Marion, Ohio, which, if completed as contemplated, will give them excellent passenger and shipping facilities to the outside world.

The town and surrounding country supports a lively little newspaper, "The Mt. Blanchard Journal," which keeps the inhabitants informed of both the local and foreign news, and is of incalculable value in a community of intelligent people. It is at present edited by Mr. L. E. Rumer, having lately changed hands.

The business of the village has always been quite extensive, considering that until recently the town has had no railroad or other means of transportation, and now that they have this advantage, it has increased many fold, the quality of the business houses being first class. There are two good general stores, two hardware and implement stores, two meat markets, two restaurants, two barber shops, two livery

barns, and one each of grocery, drug store, milliner, hotel, shoe shop, harness shop, coal yard, saw- and planing-mill, grain elevator, stock yard, flouring mill, an extensive tile factory, wagon and carriage shop, undertaker, and People's Telephone Co., with an exchange of 327 phones. Professionally there are two ministers, two doctors and two lawyers.

There are thriving lodges of Free and Accepted Masons, Odd Fellows (owning their own hall), with Rebeccas, Knights of Pythias (owning their hall), and Grand Army of the Republic. For beauty of location, on an undulated plateau along the banks of the Blanchard River, in Delaware Township, and for the handsome appearance of its homes for a town of its size, Mt. Blanchard is hard to excel. Especial mention may be made of the palatial residence of Attorney John M. Hamlin, built by his father on his farm in the southern limit of the town, and now occupied by Mr. Hamlin, who is engaged in the practice of his profession in this pleasant village. Attorney Hamlin spent most of his eventful life in Findlay, where he practiced his profession and was otherwise extensively engaged in manufacturing.

Mr. W. S. Shoemaker, one of the leading merchants and farmers, carries on a private banking business, to the great convenience of the business interests of the town. Mrs. Shoemaker was the daughter of Doctor Foster, one of the pioneer physicians of Hancock County, and for many years the leading physician and surgeon in Mt. Blanchard. Doctor Aaron F. Burson was the first physician to locate here.

The population of the town is 525. Mt. Blanchard has one rural mail route.

MT. CORY.

This town is situated in Union Township, on the Lake Erie & Western Steam Railroad, and the Western Ohio Electric Railroad, three miles from Rawson, and twelve from Findlay, and was laid out in November, 1872, by Mathias Markley and Samuel Kemerer. It is located on a part of the west half of the southwest quarter of Section 22, and when laid out consisted of thirty-two lots. To these additions have since been made by Kemerer, Markley, John O. Smith and L. B. May. The lots were readily sold, and quite a number of buildings erected, and as the town is located in the midst of a rich agricultural district, the place has become one of some importance, and quite an extensive business is carried on. There are a number of neat and comfortable dwelling houses, mostly of wood, and several large and well arranged business houses, and a comfortable and commodious town hall.

There are two rooms for the common school and one for the high school, besides the township have voted the necessary bonds to build a township high school to cost, all told, twenty thousand dollars. The township business, and the business of the Union Township Mutual Insurance Company are transacted in Mt. Cory.

The Evangelical Association owns a good brick church and the Methodist Protestant Church have a fine frame building. A flourishing Sunday School is attached to each.

The business places are two dry goods stores, three groceries, one hardware, one

tin store, one drug store, one restaurant, one barber shop, one meat market, two livery barns, one hotel, grain elevator and hay house, Ohio Oil Co. Supply Store, one blacksmith shop. In the professions they have one physician and three ministers, with David Comer, the veteran lawyer. They have a prosperous bank, a volunteer fire department with chemical and ladders; both the Bell and Mutual telephones have local exchanges here, there is one motor cycle mail route, while the Knights of Pythias and the Maccabees have flourishing lodges in the town. The Main Street and all roads coming into the town are piked, and fine shade trees adorn the streets.

A post office was established here in 1873, called Mt. Cory, with Benjamin Wildemuth as postmaster. Since then the office has been filled by Alfred Longbrake, W. J. Staater, J. L. Asire, Mathias Markley, David Comer, Jacob Zeller, A. C. Ewing, Sylvester Davis, and the present occupant, W. H. Falk. The population of the town is three hundred.

RAWSON.

The town of Rawson, in Union Township, on the Lake Erie & Western Railway, was laid out in 1855 by Fredrick Keller and J. G. Kelley, on the northwest corner of the southwest quarter of Section 13, and the northeast corner of the west half of the southeast quarter of Section 14, and originally comprised but fifty-four lots. The town was named in honor of L. Q. Rawson, of Fremont, Ohio, who was then president of the railroad. The town started out fairly, and soon quite a number of buildings were erected, but as the railroad, the locating of which had called the town into existence, was not built, and for years there seemed to be but little hopes that it would be, the town came to a halt, and was of little significance in the history of the township. A few mechanics had invested all their means in property in the prospective town, and could not sell it again. The town was one of the one dry goods and grocery store combined, with perhaps the proprietor holding the office of postmaster in order to hold his trade, with the addition of a blacksmith shop and wagon repair, and a saw-mill. For years it was a desperate struggle to keep life in the town—the same struggle that many other towns that make larger pretentions to cosmopolitan airs today have also passed through.

Finally in 1872 the sleepy little village was awakened from its seventeen years' slumber by the whistle of the first locomotive on the Lake Erie & Western Railroad, and business sprung into life, real estate changed hands, buildings were put up, stores were opened, the buzz of machinery was heard, and all was bustle, business and speculation, and streets were opened up to accommodate prospective trade. Of course the keen edge of a miniature boom wore off, and the inhabitants gradually settled down to every day life, but there was still quite an amount of business carried on, and the business of the town is still gradually increasing. Additional lots were laid out by Fred. Keller in 1859, by Jacob Burket in 1873, by C. J. Keller and Benj. Stringfeller in 1874.

Rawson was incorporated as a village in 1885, the first mayor being Geo. W. Burket, he being succeeded by the following named

persons: S. A. Griffin, B. M. Allion, T. B. Gilbert, George Dean, Frank C. Shank, L. M. Osborn and Ed. W. Burket, the present incumbent.

A post office was established here in 1863, and named Rawson, with James C. Benham as postmaster. Since that time the office has been held by Jackson Miller, James Woods, Nicolas Watson, T. E. Woods, J. D. Buss, O. C. Cramer, C. W. Fox, B. M. Allion, W. D. Cramer, John H. Ellis and J. W. Baker, the present official. The Commercial Bank of Bluffton has established a branch bank here for the convenience of stock buyers, merchants and farmers, which is doing a thriving business.

The Rawson High School was first organized in 1892, W. N. Shank being the first teacher. In 1896 the course was revised by Prof. A. J. Nowlan, and two persons received their diplomas. In 1898, by the authority of the Board of Education, Prof. Nowlan wrote out a new course of study for the High School which was adopted, this being in existence until in 1902, when the course was changed and partly reorganized by Commissioner Bonebrake. In 1903 the courses were again strengthened by Superintendent Eby, and in December of that year the Elementary School Course was changed to eight years and the High School Course to four years.

In 1904 changes were again made by Superintendent Shilling, and Sept. 1, 1905, the first charter was issued by Commissioner E. A. Jones, recognizing the school as of the Third Grade.

At the opening of school in September, 1907, the course of study was again revised and other branches added. Also over 100 articles of physical apparatus and a compound microscope were purchased, the library was strengthened by the addition of over 100 volumes and an assistant to the High School was employed. This new course of study was referred by Superintendent Steiner in January, 1908, to Commissioner Jones, who on Feb. 5, 1908, issued a new charter for the High School recognizing it as of the Second Grade.

During the Summer of 1908 the fifth teacher for the school was employed as assistant principal, the schools being then in position to do much better work than they were able to do before these changes were made.

"The following years the school was again strengthened, a large supply of apparatus and a new encyclopedia and other books were purchased, and in the spring of 1910 a new course of study was adopted and a First Grade Charter received for the school, by Prof. Steiner."

Special efforts will also be made to strengthen the Normal work of the High School for those expecting to teach.

Instructors in the High School.—J. L. Steinner, superintendent and principal (Ohio Northern University, Goshen College); Literature, Science, History and Geometry, J. W. Shank, assistant (Goshen College); Latin, English, Algebra and part of Eighth Grade.

The Methodist Episcopal and United Brethren denominations have handsome modern houses of worship, and are supplied with able ministers in the persons of the Revs. Holmes and Smith. Rawson has a good brick, four-room schoolhouse, and employs five teachers in the public school. Both the Bell and Mutual telephones have exchanges in the town. Of societies, they have the Odd Fellows, Free and Accepted Masons, Knights of Pythias, Maccabees, Junior Order of American Mechanics and

Rebeccas. The business of the town is done by one general store, three groceries, one hardware and implement store, kept by the veteran merchant, J. D. Buss and Co., one furniture store, one meat market, two barber shops, one bakery, one grist-mill, one elevator and mill, one saw-mill, two livery barns, one blacksmith shop, a good stock-yard and an electrical sub-station. Professionally there are three physicians, two ministers, and one undertaker.

On September 6, 1887, a fire swept out the heart of the town, including most of the business rooms, but this district was soon built up with good and substantial brick buildings. And what at that time seemed a great disaster afterwards proved a blessing to the town. Rawson has a good system of sewerage, and its streets, and all the roads leading out of town are well piked. The sidewalks are of the best, and well shaded by beautiful maple trees. The population is estimated at about six hundred. Besides having the Lake Erie and Western Railroad, Rawson is an important station on the Western Ohio Electric road, running through cars from Toledo to Dayton, Ohio.

SHAWTOWN.

Shawtown was laid out by E. T. Cummins on the northeast part of the northwest quarter, and the north part of the west half of the northeast quarter of Section 30, Pleasant Township. The plat, embracing 74 inlots and 20 outlots, was acknowledged June 16, 1882, before Henry Brown, a notary public, and recorded October 16, 1882, by J. F. Gutzwiler, recorder.

VAN BUREN.

The town of Van Buren was laid out by George Ensminger and John Trout, in December, 1833, and is beautifully situated on a high and dry location in a bend of the middle branch of the Portage River, on parts of Sections 12 and 13, in Range 10, and Sections 7 and 18 in Range 11, and was originally composed of fifty-three lots. The town is laid out in the form of a cross, with an open square in the center, as is the order in many southern towns, and as is the style in Spanish towns where the open space is known as the "Plaza."

This space has been beautified during the last few years by rail fencing, sodding and the planting of shade trees, also a town pump occupies a place in this little park. Aside from the business houses and residences on this square, there are but two streets in the village, and they cross one another at right angles. There were quite a number of large and substantial buildings put up, and nearly all the lots on the public square were built upon, and for a time the place assumed considerable importance in trade, so much so as to be a serious competitor to Findlay. But as the country became settled up, and other towns sprang into existence that were fortunate enough to secure railroads, this place gradually lost its prestige, to the extent that one could scarcely buy a spool of thread here.

But the coming of the Toledo and Ohio Central steam railroad, and Toledo, Bowling Green and Southern electric road, gave new life to the drowsy little village. The streets were improved, new business blocks were put up and fine residences were erected and old ones newly painted. Now it is one of the pleasantest and busiest little towns in the county.

Van Buren was incorporated in June, 1866, upon the petition of thirty of its citizens. Daniel Frick was its first mayor, and was succeeded by C. S. Wilkinson, J. H. Loehr, Dr. E. C. Wells, Dr. Edward George, A. Mumert, L. P. McCune, Jacob Loehr, James Huntington, Conaway, James Grubb, N. H. McGauchey, D. H. Heistand, W. M. Bowersock, and O. Robbins.

A postoffice was established here as early, perhaps, as 1836, and the following persons have been postmasters: Dr. George Springer, John Zarbaugh, S. M. Heller, C. S. Wilkinson, L. Michaels, Dr. E. C. Wells, D. Frick, L. J. Hissong, Sol. Zarbaugh, H. C. Hartman, John Lee, Mrs. E. C. Wells, John Cramer, Chas. Roberts, E. C. Showman, Cal. Hanna, W. H. Bolton, G. S. Brushead and Geo. F. VanEmon.

The following comprises the business directory of the town: two general stores, one hardware store, one blacksmith shop, one barber shop and photographer combined, one shoe repair shop, one coal yard, one hotel, one livery barn, and one restaurant. Of schools they have one primary of one room and a fine brick school building of four rooms. Socially they have three churches, two resident ministers, two doctors, and Odd Fellows lodge, with Rebecca Sisters, Knights of Pythias and Pythian Sisters, Maccabees and Modern Woodmen of America. While there were but one hundred and thirty inhabitants here in 1880, there are now over four hundred.

VANLUE.

The town was laid out by William Vanlue, Esq., in whose honor it was named, and is on the northwest part of the northeast quarter, and the northeast part of the northwest quarter of Section 9. It is located in Amanda Township on the line of the Findlay Branch of the C. C. C. & St. L. Railroad, ten miles southeast of Findlay. The town was laid out in May, 1847, and at that time consisted of forty-four lots. In November of the same year the proprietor laid an addition of fifty lots. In October, 1853, S. N. Beach made an addition of fifty-seven lots, and in 1858, he, with others, laid out Beach's second addition of forty-nine lots. Charles Cross laid out an additional ten lots in 1870. From the sale of the first lots the town steadily improved, and was a very considerable grain market for a number of years after the completion of the railroad, but of no great importance otherwise.

There were many tasteful and comfortable dwellings, and the palatial residence of J. J. Harman, the hardware merchant, is an honor to any town, or even city. The streets have been improved by graveling and are shaded by thrifty trees, in all giving a home-like appearance as a residence village. After a few years of great prosperity, the town, as new towns often do, slacked up, and almost came to a standstill. Business seemed for a time to have forsaken the place. Enterprise too, seemed to have taken its leave. Progress had ceased and everything seemed to be "going to the dogs." But this state of affairs could not last long. The town could not stand still. It must go forward, or retreat, and it finally resumed its forward march.

In 1866, upon the petition of fifty of its inhabitants, the village was incorporated under the laws of the State. Pursuant to the Act of Incorporation, the first election for village officers was held on the 13th of April, 1867, with Peter Shuck, C. H. Hatch and Jason Lee as judges, and Ira Plotts and John Dresbach, clerks. There were thirty-nine votes cast. The

following officers were elected: Mayor, Elisha Brown; councilmen, H. Pratt, Ira Plotts, B. A. Etherton, Charles Hatch, and A. S. Roberts; marshall, W. L. Plotts. The following persons have held the office of mayor: Elisha Brown, Aquilla Gilbert, Fred Shuler, J. H. Brown, B. F. Burnap, T. B. Gilbert, H. T. Lee, George Snooks, John Cross, L. C. Clark, Ira Plotts, H. G. Early, D. A. Eschbach, E. L. E. Mumma, Ralph E. Deihl, Charles H. Hatch, Harry A. Renshler, W. L. Daniels and D. D. Cole. George Snool is both the present mayor and postmaster.

But Vanlue has regained her former prestige in trade, and is at the present time a lively town. owing no doubt, largely, to the improved condition of the very productive farms surrounding it, for the great majority of the business done is with the farmers. All is in a flourishing condition, with good prospects for the future. The following is a list of the different business interests of the town: Two general stores, two groceries, one hardware store, one bakery, two hotels, one livery barn, two blacksmiths, one barber shop, one saw- and planing-mill, one grain elevator, two hay dealers with steam hay-balers, one coal yard, one bank, three churches with two resident preachers, two doctors and Odd Fellows and Knights of Pythias lodges in flourishing condition. The Odd Fellows are completing an addition to their property, which will give them one of the finest lodge rooms in the county, and the store will soon be occupied by J. J. Harmon as a hardware store.

The Vanlue Bank commenced business on April 24, 1909, and is doing a lively business, having already 138 regular patrons. The officers are President, W. J. Frey, vice-president, Chas. H. Bigelow, cashier, C. J. Oller; assistant cashier, H. J. Morehart. Its responsibility of shareholders to depositors is stated at over half a million.

A postoffice was established here in 1849, with Dr. W. P. Wilson as postmaster. The successive postmasters have been as follows: John Wescott, Ira Plotts, W. A. Sponsler, Daniel Gilbert, William Alspach, B. F. Burnap, Sherman Buckingham, Kib Burnap, Miss Rheba Burnap, Samuel LeMott, and the present incumbent, George Snook.

Owing to the great amount of farm products in the vicinity in the line of grain, hay and stock, there is much shipping done from this station on the railroad.

WEST INDEPENDENCE.

The proprietors of this town were George Wyant, Peter Wyant and Henry M. Grose. It is located in Big Lick Township, on the east part of the east half of the northeast quarter of Section 2, and at present has a population of about one hundred souls.

The United Brethren and Progressive Dunkards both have church buildings in the village, and there is a good, comfortable schoolhouse in the town.

The business of the place consists of one hotel, one grocery and provision store, one saw mill, one shoe repair shop and one blacksmith and wagon-repair shop.

A post office was established here in 1856, with Frederick Reamer as postmaster. Mr. Reamer was succeeded by J. L. Kenower, Jacob Ruth, William Blinn, John Wyancoop, Byron Leady, Westley Gibson, John Peters, White Lawhead, Jacob C. Hazen, A. J. Maurer, L. W. Gibson, J. L. Lenhart, and N. B. Hainer. The town has never been incorporated.

WILLIAMSTOWN.

This town situated in Madison Township, was named in honor of John W. Williams, the proprietor. It is located on a part of the northwest quarter of the northwest quarter of Section 31, and the northeast quarter of Section 36. It originally contained forty-eight lots, and as remarked by a resident, "It commenced small, and has held its own exceedingly well." At the time the town was laid out, there was no family within three miles of it. Mr. Williams opened a store and tavern in the place, and travel commenced along the range line, now the Bellefontaine State road. In about 1837, Christian Welty also opened a store, and a Doctor Smith located here for a short time, being the first in the township. He was succeeded by Dr. A. F. Burson, afterwards the first to locate in Mt. Blanchard, and who became quite famous for his success in the treatment of "Milk Sickness," then quite prevalent in this part of the county.

The town is located on the Toledo and Ohio Central Railroad fourteen miles directly south of Findlay and three miles north of the Hardin County line. The business of the place was never very great, and even the coming of the railroad did not increase it, but on the contrary, it has steadily declined, until at this time it has an appearance of forlorn lonesomeness. Arlington on one side, and the thriving town of Dunkirk on the other, have sapped its revenue, and investments here do not render an income. However, it still retains the usual blacksmith shop and convenient corner grocery.

A postoffice was established here in 1835 and Christian Welty was the first postmaster. The office was called Eagle until 1866, when it was changed to Williamstown.

STILL-BORN TOWNS OF HANCOCK COUNTY.

Capernicum, in Amanda Township, was laid out by Abraham Huff in March, 1831, on the west half of the northeast quarter of Section 3, and comprised sixteen lots. Aside from the fact that the town was laid out and recorded on a plat, the town has no farther record. The project was probably abandoned before any lots were sold. At least its history is less brief than that of the "city of the plain," after which it was named. It is exceedingly doubtful if any one at the present time is able to point out the site.

Frankford, in Cass Township. John Franks laid out the town of Frankford, on the northwest corner of Section 10. The town of seventy-two lots was regularly laid out, with a public square, or plaza, in the center. The prospective city, however, only existed in name, and no doubt would long since have been forgotten had it not been a matter of record. There were, perhaps, no lots sold, and the prospective town returned to its original state—that of wheat and corn fields.

Freedom, in Big Lick Township. On the 26th day of October, 1836, Uriah E. Drake laid out a town of forty-eight lots on the east half of the southwest quarter of Section 19, and named it Freedom. So far as can be learned this is the complete history of the place, as a town.

LaFayette, in Portage Township. Jacob Andrew laid out a town on the north part of the east half of the northeast quarter of Section 15, on land now owned by Daniel Warner, and called it LaFayette. It comprised seventy-two lots, and had great expectations. But here ends its uneventful history.

Louisville, in Blanchard Township. This

town was laid out in 1851, by William H. Powell, Daniel Millham and Michael Shearer. The town plat was in the northwest corner of the east half of the northwest quarter of Section 14, and the northeast corner of the west half of the northeast quarter of Section 14, and was composed of forty lots, but were never all sold, and no buildings were constructed on the plat. The principal streets were Defiance (Main Road), running east and west, and East, Lima and West streets, running north and south.

The town, however, after a sickly existence of a few years, was finally vacated, and remanded to the several owners. In its boom days, John Boylan kept a small general store in a small plank house where the staple articles of the market were kept in small quantities, but the trade not being profitable, he abandoned the business. The author taught school here in 1862, and at that time every vestige of a town had disappeared, except a tumble-down blacksmith shop and the district schoolhouse which was not much better. Beardsley in his history, 1881, poetically comments: "Such is the history of the birth, life and death and even decay of this town of 'great expectations,' and it does not now exist even in name, and scarcely in the memory of the neighborhood. How many hopes were blasted, and how many expectations came to naught in the early demise and decay of this pre-prospective city?"

Martinstown, in Eagle Township, was laid out on the southeast corner of Section 36, the entire corner of the township, by Martin Hollobaugh, in September, 1836. There were, perhaps, never any lots sold, or streets laid out, as the site was at the cross-roads, about one mile north of Arlington, and the records of the platting of the town closed up its existence, if indeed it ever had any.

Olney, in Pleasant Township. In April, 1857, Isaac Fairchilds laid out the town of Olney in Section 15, which comprised forty lots. The town never progressed farther than the platting, and it was only a town on paper, and its proposed site is now devoted to agricultural purposes.

North Ridgeville was laid out by Thomas Pickins on the east part of the northwest quarter, and the west part of the northeast quarter of Section 18, Pleasant Township. The plat, consisting of twenty-four lots, was acknowledged May 29, 1850, before B. Todd, justice of the peace, and recorded on the same day by P. Sours, recorder. The plat was vacated February 16, 1880.

Ridgeville was laid out by Lemuel Roberts on the northwest quarter of the northwest quarter of Section 2, Amanda Township. The plat, consisting of twenty-four lots, was acknowledged before W. L. Henderson, a justice of the peace, October 25, 1836, and recorded November 15, 1836, by Wilson Vance, recorder.

Silverwood was laid out by Addison J. and Nancy A. Silverwood and Anthony Huntington on the southwest part of the west half of the southwest quarter of Section 19, and the southeast part of the east half of the southeast quarter of Section 24, and the northeast part of the east half of the northeast quarter of Section 25. The plat, embracing fifty-eight lots, was acknowledged March 27, 1883, before Edwin Phifer, surveyor and recorder, April 9, 1883, by J. F. Gutzwiler, recorder.

West Union was laid out by Anson Sheller on the southeast corner of Section 26,

Van Buren Township. The plat, consisting of forty-eight lots, was acknowledged before W. L. Henderson, justice of the peace, December 25, 1834, and recorded January 6, 1835, by W. Vance, recorder.

DISCONTINUED POST OFFICES.

Almost all of the townships have had post offices within their bounds at some time in the early part of the settlement of the county, but these have all been discontinued as the country grew older, and at the present time the post offices in the villages have their business greatly reduced by the system of rural delivery.

Perhaps one reason for establishing these country offices was that the roads were almost impassable during a part of the year, so that it was easier to have one person carry the mail out to these places, than that every farmer should be obliged to travel the well nigh impassable roads after it.

CHAPTER XX.

MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES.

The Hancock Brick and Tile Co.—Buckeye Traction Ditcher Co.—U. S. Electric Porcelain Co.—Findlay Clay Pot Co.—Boss Manufacturing Co.—D. Kirk Sons & Co.—Findlay Table Manufacturing Co.—Hollerback Piano Co.—The H. H. Fassett Planing Mill—Tarbox and McCall—Findlay Casket Co.—Hayward & Young—Findlay Carriage Co.

The Hancock Brick & Tile Company is incorporated under the laws of the State of Ohio with a capital stock of $100,000 and has been in operation seven years, manufacturing brick, tile, hollow blocks and fireproofing. The officers of the company are as follows: President, James M. Esler; vice president, D. Earl Child; secretary, A. G. Fuller; treasurer, J. A. Gibson; manager, D. E. Child. The works are located in the southern suburb of the city on the line of the Toledo and Ohio Central Railroad and consist of a number of substantial brick buildings, nine kilns of 26 and 30 feet in diameter, ten tunnels of two hundred car capacity and 37,200 square feet of floor space for drying. The company employs sixty men, and besides what product is sold locally there is shipped annually from 550 to 750 car loads to outside points. The material for this large output is all near at hand, the company having about a mile of track to the clay fields, from which it is drawn in on small cars by horses, but arrangements are being made to use a light locomotive to do this work. There are five elevators in the works. They have three high pressure, water tube boilers of one hundred and twenty-five horse power each, and the most modern and approved machinery is installed in the plant. Seeing that nothing by way of material is imported except the coal, the profits of the plant are largely a clear gain to our town and county.

The Buckeye Traction Ditcher Company was incorporated under the laws of the state of Ohio, February 3, 1903, with a capital stock of $100,000. President, N. L. McLachlin; vice president, C. D. Haywood; secretary and treasurer, W. D. McCaughey; superintendent of construction, C. S. Brown. The works are located on the main line of the T. & O. C. Railroad, corner of Crystal Avenue. The main building is 100x300 feet; blacksmith shop and machine room, 80x160 feet; pattern room, 60x24 feet, and office 28x34; all constructed of cement block. Besides, they have ordered in addition a steel frame building 120x300 feet at a cost of $50,000 for build-

ing and equipments to meet the needs of the company's increasing trade. This building is to be finished by April 1, 1910. The number of men on the pay roll at this writing (Sept. 25, 1909), is 136, 127 of whom are voters, and the annual value of the output is $350,000. A large number of the Buckeye Ditchers are sold in the United States, Canada and Argentine Republic, but a goodly number have been sent to Europe and as many as five have been shipped to Australia.

The U. S. Electric Porcelain Co.'s works are located in the north part of the town on the T. & O. C. R. R. The company was incorporated in February, 1905, with a capital of $50,000. The officers are: President, F. W. Williams; vice president, C. H. Bigelow; secretary and treasurer, W. S. Bish. From 90 to 100 men find employment here at good wages and the capacity of the output is $100,000. All kinds of electrical porcelain are made here that find a ready sale in the market, it being an article of steady demand, and that demand is still in its infancy and will grow with the numerous and various uses of electricity coming into utility form day by day. The dimensions of this brick factory building is 120x 400 feet. The plant has had a very steady run, missing only one day in thirteen months.

The Findlay Clay Pot Co. was organized during the gas boom in 1888, when there were over a dozen glass factories in the town, and although with the failing gas supply the factories sought new gas fields, yet from that day to this the Clay Pot Works has had a steady growth in the quantity and quality of its trade until now they send their wares to all points in the United States where glass is made. The company was incorporated under the Laws of Ohio in 1888, and the present officers are: President, C. H. Lambie; vice president and treasurer, J. M. Lambie; secretary, J. G. Quay. They own an extensive brick building of 320 feet and facing a spur of the C. H. & D. R. R., with a depth of 250 feet, employing 150 men, with the value of their output $150,000 a year, and are still making extensive improvements and additions to this plant, one of which is the installing of electrical power throughout. They manufacture clay pots of mammoth dimensions, thickness and weight out of a mixture of different clays, some brought from Missouri and some imported from Germany. These are combined in different proportions and from the large vessels in which the material composing glass is put and melted. The tank blocks are immense fire clay bricks, ranging in size from a foot square and 18 to 20 inches long, to 3 to 5 feet square and a foot thick, and weighing more than a half a ton, and are used to build large tanks used for the same purpose as the clay pots, in the making of window glass and bottles. In making the pot it is necessary that the clay should be mixed by tramping it with the bare feet, and no other process has been found available.

The Boss Manufacturing Company is incorporated under the laws of Illinois with a capital stock of $500,000. President, W. H. Lyman; vice president, H. T. Terry; secretary and treasurer, F. M. Lay; manager of the Findlay Plant, Wm. E. Houck.

The main plant is located at Kewanee, Ill., with seven others in different parts of

the country. The Findlay plant employs 450 people with a pay roll of $9,000 a month and an output of 20,000 dozen pairs of gloves a week. The expense of running the plant is $9,000 a week. Not only gloves, but mittens and husking gloves are made here. The factory is located on Liberty Street with a track of the L. E. & W. R. R. running directly into it, giving great convenience of shipping. Their buildings are substantial brick structures, one 50x72, three story; one 50x100, three story; one 42x46, one story; and besides they occupy two rooms on Main Cross Street and are expecting to build more. They have storage enough for sixty car loads of products, and carry on hand over half a million yards of materials. All the machinery is propelled by electrical power, which is generated in the plant.

D. Kirk, Sons and Company, Wholesale Grocery. This firm was organized and incorporated under the laws of Ohio in 1899. In 1905 they built a fine pressed-brick building on east Sandusky Street, fifty feet front and one hundred and thirty feet deep with basement and four stories high. The track of the Big Four Railroad runs directly into the building, rendering the shipment of goods very convenient. The officers of the incorporation are: President, D. Kirk; vice president, M. Kirk; secretary and treasurer, Robert Kirk; manager, David Kirk, Jr.

The David Kirk Flouring Mill is located on the right bank of Eagle Creek on East Sandusky Street and is the oldest manufacturing plant in Hancock County. In 1845 John Julian and Martin Hershey bought the ground for one hundred and fifty dollars and built the structure that has remained to the present, a period of sixty-four years. In connection with the business of grinding wheat and corn there was a carding machine that carded wool into rolls for spinning on the domestic wheels before the days of machinery. This was in the days before the war. Later there was a planing mill set up in connection with the custom grinding, it being managed by D. C. Fisher. In 1846 Julian and Hershey sold the property to Benjamin Huber for $7,500, who ran the mill for nineteen years, when it was sold to Milton B. Patterson in 1865, for the consideration of $5,500. Mr. Patterson sold a fourth interest to E. M. Norwood for $1,300, and in 1867 the plant was sold to W. W. McConnell, who failed in business and the property was bid off at sheriff's sale by the present owner in 1879. For the last thirty years Mr. Kirk has run the mill very successfully, buying in grain, grinding it and shipping the product in connection with his custom work. The property is still in first class condition.

Findlay Table Manufacturing Company.—President, W. F. Hosler; secretary and treasurer, Lewis Hensner; manager, J. W. Andregg. This company are manufacturers of extension and library tables and began operation in 1886. On February 23, 1902, the entire plant was destroyed by fire, but was at once rebuilt and has been in successful operation ever since. They have a capacity for an output of $100,000 of products a year, when run to the full extent. About seventy-five men find employment here.

The Hollerback Piano Company.—President, L. Hollerback; vice president, W. H. Harlington; secretary, W. E. Houck; treasurer, Lynn S. Nicols.

This company are manufacturers of the Hollerbach pianos, and occupy a four-story brick

building on Western Avenue near Lima Avenue, formerly the Lantern Works. The company was incorporated in February, 1909, and have a capacity when in full force of five pianos a day. About thirty men are employed here.

The H. H. Fassett Planing Mill, a substantial, brick structure on East Crawford Street, was built by H. H. Fassett and commenced operation in May 1905. On April 21, 1906, Mr. Fassett died and the business of the mill and lumber trade devolved upon Mrs. Fassett, who was very successful in the business until August 15, 1909, when in a severe electrical storm the building was struck by lightning and with the machinery and materials therein was reduced to almost a complete loss, without insurance. But the courageous Mrs. Bassett, with the assistance of her sons, who are still only lads, has commenced the re-construction of the plant.

Tarbox and McCall, engaged in the manufacture of crushed stone and cement building blocks are located on Western Avenue, where they have an output of 40,000 cubic yards of crushed stone a year. Part of this amount is used locally and part exported for the construction of stone pike. Two mammoth crushers are in use, one to crush the stones to road-making size, and one to crush them to a sand for plastering walls for which it makes a far better material than wash-sand, forming with lime a complete rock composition.

The Findlay Casket Company, an industry carried on at 343 Cherry Street, and run for sixteen years by Frank and Plotner, was organized and incorporated December 16, 1908, and the following officers were elected: President, Ray E. Fluckey; vice president, C. J. Pickens; secretary and treasurer, E. W. Funk.

The company manufactures caskets and funeral supplies. They have a capacity of 100 a week, make the finest cloth covered caskets, selling to the local trade, and are successful competitors in the open markets against the best factories. A special feature of their trade is the making of the couch and davenport varieties of couch caskets.

Hayward & Young are proprietors of a planing mill, and deal also in coal. They are located on Crystal Avenue.

The Findlay Carriage Company. On lots 518-520-522 West St., Findley, Ohio, between Sandusky and Hardin Streets, in a building standing on leased ground, was begun the manufacturing establishment of O. J. Daugherty, about 1890, which never yet ceased growing and from about 1904 was known as the Findlay Carriage Company. In the beginning the company and Mr. Daugherty were one and the same; only a few new wagons were made, the greater part of the time being taken up in repairing vehicles of all kinds. In 1904 A. H. Moyer, who had been engaged in the manufacture and sale of buggies, carriages and wagons at Mt. Cory, Ohio, and had built up quite an enviable reputation for good work, sold out to his junior partner, moved to Findlay and joined in partnership with Mr. Dougherty, the latter being the woodworker and A. H. Moyer the blacksmith. These two gentlemen soon had a good trade, making and selling more than 150 vehicles annually, aside from the large repair trade they enjoyed. In August, 1906, J. D. Moyer, who had hitherto been engaged as teacher and superintendent of schools in Michola and Sedgwick, Kansas, was induced to join in the partnership, taking charge of the office, collections, etc., at the same time giving much attention to the sales department. This trinity partnership only continued till October

of the same year, when A. H. and J. C. Moyer purchased Mr. Daugherty's interest and continued the business which had outgrown their building so much that in the fall of 1899 they were compelled to build a new addition two stories high, 30 by 75 feet, and add many improvements which enabled them to keep pace with their growing trade. Scarcely had they become settled in and accustomed to their new quarters and conditions when on Feb. 1, 1900, a disastrous fire destroyed the entire plant. Soon after, their present location—200-202-204-206 West Crawford Street—was purchased, which was then known as the old Table Works, and which was for some years idle. The front was torn down, the remainder improved and remodeled so as to be convenient for the business and the present splendid "Moyer Block" was erected at a considerable cost. In 1902 the Findlay Carriage Company engaged in the wholesale manufacture and sale of buggies, carriages and business wagons, and have continued the same since. They now have a reputation second to none for the production of high grade, well-finished, stylish work, which is shipped all over the north central states east of the Mississippi. In 1905 the Findlay Carriage Company was incorporated under the laws of Ohio with $50,000.00 capital stock, most of which was paid up, in which capacity the business has been conducted. John N. Doty, president; E. C. Taylor, vice-president; A. H. Moyer, treasurer and manager; J. C. Moyer, secretary. J. N. Doty, E. C. Taylor, A. H. Moyer, J. C. Moyer, C. G. Cook, J. T. Smith, A. E. Taylor are the Board of Directors.

The company now have engaged in the manufacture of automobiles in connection with carriages and buggies, and predict a bright future, as they have planned and designed a machine of the best style, mechanism and finish that cannot help but please.

CHAPTER XXI.

BANKS AND BANKING

Commercial Bank and Savings Co.—The American National Bank—The First National Bank—The City Banking Co.—The Buckeye National Bank.

The Commercial Bank & Savings Company located at Findlay, Ohio, was incorporated November 10, 1900, under the act of February, 1873, with an authorized capital of $80,000, and commenced business February 20, 1901, the incorporators being Messrs. John B. Heimhofer, W. A. B. Dalzell, Cloyd Marvin, E. C. Taylor, F. H. Griffith and Richard W. Boyd. As the name indicates, this bank was chartered by the State of Ohio to do both commercial and savings banking, and from its opening date has conducted both a commercial and savings business with far greater success than was anticipated by the most optimistic stockholders.

In view of the rapid and uninterrupted growth of business from the date of opening, and anticipating still greater expansion in, and volume of business the stockholders on March 4th, 1904, increased the authorized Capital Stock to $100,000, the increase being placed with some of the wealthiest men in the community, thereby increasing the number of stockholders to sixty; whose combined financial responsibility is conservatively estimated at Three Millions of Dollars.

The Commercial Bank & Savings Company occupies superbly equipped banking rooms in its building, a splendid example of the most modern type of individual bank building and an ornament to the architecture of the city, located at 335 South Main Street, being the only bank on the east side of said street. Thus it is assured of a central, convenient and permanent location on the city's main thoroughfare, where property is constantly increasing in value. From its opening date the institution has constantly enjoyed the confidence of the city's leading merchants, manufacturers and citizens generally, of whom a large number are among its depositors; in fact the management is of a character and the results shown are of a kind that commands the respect and confidence of all, and it is entirely safe to say that there is not a more popular bank in Findlay.

This bank was the pioneer in Saturday night opening and has continued the practice from its opening date with the satis-

faction to its management of knowing that its efforts to please have been appreciated by the business public. The policy of this bank always has been and is to maintain at all times a strong cash reserve and invest its funds in municipal bonds, farm mortgages, and other securities easily convertable.

According to its report to the State Department of Banks and Banking under date of September 1st, 1909, the Commercial Bank & Savings Company had at that time resources amounting to $677,475.84, of which $149,559.76 was in the form of cash and due from other banks; $139,272.44 was represented by municipal and other bonds; its loans and investments amounted to $367,643.64, and its banking house furniture and fixtures $21,000.00.

Upon the side of liabilities the report shows a grand total of deposits amounting to $609,763.34.

The Capital Stock paid in amounting to $50,000.00 and surplus and profits reach $17,712.50.

The bank is a depository of the State of Ohio and City of Findlay.

The officers and directors of the bank are identified with some of the most important interests of the city. They are: E. C. Taylor, president; John B. Heimhofer, vice-president; C. J. Oller, cashier; and Chas. H. Bigelow, secretary and treasurer. The directors: E. C. Taylor, John B. Heimhofer, Peter J. Poole, W. J. Frey, N. W. Cunningham, Dr. N. L. MacLachlan and C. J. Oller.

The American National Bank.—Prominent among the financial institutions of Findlay is the American National Bank, which was organized in 1887, and has had an enviable record since then. One of the leading promoters of this bank was the late Judge Jacob F. Burket, who was its first president, and continued in that capacity until the time of his death in 1906. His good judgment and advice were of material assistance to the cashier and manager, Mr. L. W. Eoff, and are reflected in the unbroken record of prosperity and success that the institution has enjoyed since its organization.

The policy of the management has always been conservative and safe, and yet by tact and good judgment, a reputation for liberal treatment of the public has always been maintained. Accounts opened at the American National Bank are seldom changed as customers always get all the accommodations that they are reasonably entitled to. The general standing of the bank in Northern Ohio is very high and it is one of the strongest financial concerns in this section.

The Capital Stock of the bank is one hundred thousand dollars and total resources one million dollars. In addition to accumulating a substantial surplus fund, over one hundred and fifty thousand dollars of profits have been paid to the stockholders. The management of the bank is progressive, intelligent and careful, being safe at all times. A well equipped savings department is maintained, offering the facilities of a regular savings bank. The bank has a fine burglar and fire proof vault, and has safety deposit boxes to rent.

Drafts on all parts of the world are issued and steam-ship tickets and travelers cheques sold. The officers of the institution stand high in the business life of Findlay, and are

as follows: President, Harlan F. Burket; Vice-President, C. L. Casterline; Cashier, L. W. Eoff; Assistant Cashier, A. E. Eoff. The officers with W. S. Parker and Reginald Burket, compose the Board of Directors.

The First National Bank.—Findlay is noted as a city of progress and safe institutions, but of all these none stand more high in the regard of the community at large throughout this section of Ohio than "the old bank"—the First National. No other bank in Northwestern Ohio, outside of the city of Toledo, has ever exceeded the million mark in total assets. This is a record with which no other financial institution in the city can compare.

The costly improvements recently made in the banking room and still in course of construction are a source of universal comment, and once again brings the bank to the fore as having the finest bank furniture of any bank in Northwestern Ohio, excepting one. This new furniture is complete throughout. It is of the most modern design, made of golden oak quarter-sawed and solid brass, together with plate glass and marble. The business transactions of the institution are transacted in what is really a very elaborate cage, there being a woven brass roof to the department of the cashier. An innovation in Findlay Banks, is a special room luxuriously appointed for the use of ladies separating them from the regular run of customers.

The First National was founded in June, 1863, with E. P. Jones as president; and Charles E. Niles cashier. The directors have been James A. Bope, Jacob F. Burket, R. B. Hurd, Henry Brown, H. P. Gage, James H. Wilson, George W. Kimmel, C. P. Jones, Anson Hurd, W. H. Wheeler, M. E. Jones, C. F. M. Niles, C. F. Jones, and James A. Blair, the latter now a millionaire banker in New York City.

Mr. Jones was formerly clerk in the post-office at Sandusky and later was appointed agent of the Mad River railroad in Findlay, a position which he filled for many years, and at the same time was engaged extensively in the grain business. He was a natural financier and his keen business ability brought him rapidly to the front.

Mr. Niles received his first banking education in 1852 in the State Bank of Ohio at Ashtabula, commencing at the ground floor at the foot of the ladder, he has worked his way up until he is considered one of the solid and level-headed bankers of Ohio. He has filled the positions of vice-president and president of the Ohio Bankers' Association and has held many responsible fiduciary offices during the past forty years.

Mr. E. P. Jones's death in 1894 caused the first change in the officers of the bank since it had been founded thirty years before. Mr. Niles succeeded to the presidency and George P. Jones, son of the bank's first president, became its cashier, a place that he has ably filled. Mr. Jones received his education primarily at Eastman's Business College, in Poughkeepsie, N. Y., but for over ten years before assuming the position of cashier he rubbed elbows with his father and Mr. Niles, two of the finest financiers in Ohio, and from them gained an invaluable knowledge of the banking business. Both Mr. Niles and Mr. Jones continue in active service in the bank, none of the employes of the institution putting in more arduous hours then they.

The first furniture was that just recently succeeded by the handsome new equipment. It was of massive black walnut and plate glass and was one of the sights of the town for many years.

The bank is just beginning the third period of its long career. From 1863 to 1892, the first period, the bank issued no higher than $5 bills; in the second period, to 1902, $5, $10 and $20 were issued; and now the bank is issuing its banknotes for $50 and $100. One of the interesting relics of the institution is the old ledger, with which business was first opened in 1863. The capital stock of this bank, paid up, is $150,000; surplus and undivided profits, $31,100; and individual deposits $874,500.

The same course that has been pursued for forty years is still the guiding star of the bank and it is bearing it ever upward and onward. The First National is always safe, always conservative and is the largest and strongest bank, not only in Findlay but, with the single exception of Toledo, in all this part of Ohio.

The City Banking Company was incorporated November 6, 1897, and commenced business, December 4, 1897. It succeeded to the business of the City Bank of Findlay, a private bank organized by Peter Hosler and associates on May 1, 1887, which bank has held an honorable position in the financial affairs of Findlay during the entire term of its existence. Mr. N. M. Adams, the president (also treasurer of the Adams Bros. Company), is a man of large experience in business and is thoroughly in touch with the business world. Mr. D. H. Heistand, vice-president, is a man of large means, a successful oil producer and a progressive business man. W. F. Hosler, the cashier, has been identified with the banking interests of Findlay for the past twenty years and by diligence, prudence and square dealing has built up an enviable reputation. The paid-up capital stock of this bank is $55,000 and the individual deposits amount to $468,000.

The Buckeye National Bank.—The Farmers' National Bank of Findlay, Ohio, was organized under charter No. 3477 bearing date of March 30, 1886. This bank was merged into the Buckeye National Bank in January, 1904, since which time its growth has been most gratifying to its patrons, stockholders, and officers; its deposits have increased from $424,000.00 in 1904, to over $1,250,000.00 in January, 1909, making a gain of over $150,000.00 per year. The officers of the Buckeye National Bank feel more than grateful to their many friends for this magnificent growth. The Buckeye National Bank stands for solidity, soundness, and strength over Hancock County and all Northwestern Ohio. It is the leading monetary institution of Hancock County, and one of the strongest banks in the State.

The resources and strength of the Buckeye National Bank lie directly or indirectly in the holdings of its several stockholders, their possessions in reality amounting to many thousand acres of valuable lands. They are the controlling spirit in different national and private banks; this bank has the proud distinction of having two millionaires numbered among its stockholders. Few banks in Ohio can say as much. Many of our leading merchants, farmers, manufacturers and business men use this bank as their bank; its officers and directors keep in close touch with current financial issues, always holding a conservative hand on booms and movements speculative in their tendency. The Savings Department is fully

equipped and up-to-date in every particular, a place where every man, woman and child in Hancock County is cordially invited to deposit their savings with confidence and security.

The bank has fitted two rooms in the rear for the private use of its patrons where all are made welcome and everybody invited to take his friend or friends for private business or consultation, where stationery is found upon its desk and everybody invited to help themselves. The officers at the present writing are: W. W. Edwards, president; David T. Davis, vice-president; W. J. Creighton, chairman of board; Ralph W. Moore, cashier; C. W. Shireman, assistant cashier; J. C. Spencer, assistant cashier; F. P. Blackford, A. L. Stephenson and P. W. Ewing, directors.

The Farmers' Bank Co., of Jenera, Ohio, is a flourishing financial concern which takes worthy rank among the banks of Hancock County. Its capital stock is $25,000.00 and its present officers are John J. Von Stein, president; J. L. Higbie, vice-president; A. H. Good, cashier. Directors—Jacob Von Stein, Adam Von Stein, Adam J. Gossman, John Heldman, John Von Stein, A. H. Good and Dr. J. L. Higbie. The following was the bank's statement for June 30, 1910:

RESOURCES.

Loans and Discounts	$ 79,787.81
Over Drafts	73.80
Bonds and Securities	
Furniture and Fixtures	2,512.90
Real Estate	9,493.42
Nat. Bank of Commerce	12,846.95
Toledo	
New York	
Cleveland	
Cash	4,533.33
Total	$109,248.21

LIABILITIES.

Capital Paid	$ 15,000.00
Undivided Profits	2,115.86
Deposits Subject to Check	30,005.29
Demand Cert. Dept.	2,876.92
Time Cert. Dept.	54,250.14
Due to Banks	5,000.00
Total	$109,248.21

CHAPTER XXII.

RECAPITULATION AND STATISTICS

Comparison of Early and Present Conditions—Road Building—Sewerage—Timber—Land Values—Agricultural Prosperity—Public Buildings—Water Supply—Manufacturing Industries—Some First Things—Roster of Public Officials.

The author came to Hancock County in 1851, then a boy of seven years of age, and remembers well the conditions of the county. Outside of the towns, there were at that time perhaps not a half dozen frame houses, the then prevailing style of architecture being either round or hewed-log dwellings, those dwelling in the latter being considered the aristocracy. Even in these best houses there were no carpets, except now and then perchance one made of rags with a homespun chain in the weaving; and such a thing as a piano or organ would have been considered an unwonted extravagance and would have given occasion for the gossips to exercise their jealousy.

Not a mile of improved road then existed in the county, not even in the town of Findlay, and it was no uncommon event to see one or two yoke of oxen, hitched to a wagon with a moderate load become stalled in the mud of Findlay, Main Street; while to drive in the county at night was a difficult task, owing to logs and stumps obstructing the right of way. And where the way passed over low ground, corduroy was built up, by placing large logs side by side, filling the depressions with smaller logs, then a covering of brush, on which earth was placed, to be washed off by the first rain; sometimes the waters arose and floated out the whole structure. Sometimes these structures were curved to avoid great stumps that were too colossal to be removed, until time caused them to decay. This was in the time before any ditching or tiling had improved the drainage, and during rainy spells the roads were almost impassable at any time of the year.

The virgin soil being rich, made very poor material for public highways, but afforded good crops, where the natural drainage was sufficient to carry off the surplus water.

In 1852 or '53, the town council passed an ordinance that all property owners on Main Street, Findlay, should improve the street to the extent of the width of his lot and to the center of the street, by placing hereon a depth of six inches of broken stone. No contract was to be given to any one party to do this work, but each individual property owner between the river bridge and Sandusky Street had charge of his share of the improvement and did it at his own convenience, giving the street the appearance of an unfinished patch-quilt. Owing

to the looseness of the ground foundation and to the fact that great quantities of mud were deposited upon it from the wheels of the wagons coming out of the country roads, this McAdam road that had been the joy and pride of the village, disappeared from view and is poetically "though lost to sight to memory dear."

However, the people gave no sign of discouragement, but placed another layer of stone on that street from time to time, and when it became covered with mud raked it up with hoes and hauled it off, redressing it with broken stones. This was kept up until 1890 when the whole mass was removed and replaced by a twelve-inch foundation of crushed stone, and paved with paving brick from Lima Street on the south to Howard Street on the north, together with Allen Avenue, which was the first side street paved. This was followed in 1902 by the paving of Main from Lima to Third Street, East Sandusky Street, Center and Cherry and from year to year more paving was completed until now the entire town is done, and Findlay has fifteen miles of brick pavement and one "Hurd Avenue" of asphalt paving.

Commencing along in the early seventies, there was an effort to pike the county roads, but this met with bitter opposition from the farmers and at an election for the purpose of levying a tax to improve the county roads it was badly beaten. Two years after, and after it was thought the farmers would take part, another election was held, but the measure was again defeated, but with a less majority against it, a number of the more progressive farmers voting in its favor.

Then Findlay Township took up the matter and by special legislation bill voted three mills on the dollar valuation to build roads. The roads that were built with the money—poor though they were—convinced the farming community that what they did need most was good roads, and instead of opposing, they began clamoring for them, importuning the county commissioners to increase the levy for pike to the limit, and most of the townships followed Findlay's plan of voting a levy to improve the roads within their townships until at the present date, 1909, all of the main roads and a goodly part of the side roads are improved by piking with crushed stone, rendering them passable for business or pleasure the entire year. And still the cry goes up from county and town, "Give us better and more good roads."

The work of open ditching and underdraining has been referred to in the part of this work devoted to the farming interests and will not be extensively mentioned here, except to say that in the fifties much of the best soil was useless on account of the want of artificial drainage, while now this is the best soil for agriculture, having been drained of its surplus water, and the writer believes there is not an acre of land in Hancock County, that cannot be tilled.

The matter of sewers for the town was first taken up about 1868 by an ordinance to construct two-tile sewers in Findlay, one on each side of South Main Street from the river to Lima Street. This measure met with no little opposition from the uninformed, and the writer remembers right well, of the wealthiest personage, Judge Cory, who lived on the west side of Main Street between Front Street and the river, complaining of the sewers, because as he said he had a good well seven feet deep, and by sinking the sewers to the same depth, it

drained his well and consequently rendered it useless.

These old sewers are still used locally and are of some convenience, but the city of Findlay has an excellent sewer system, serving all parts of the town with an outlet into Blanchard River below the town through a six-foot brick-shell sewer, and not only Findlay, but all the smaller towns of the county are well provided with sewerage. Owing to this work of ditching, sewering and tiling more than to any other thing, the sickness and especially the acute diseases of the people have decreased at least fifty per cent.

Mention has been made of the immense quantities of valuable timber growing in Hancock County, in an early day, and it has been estimated that if the timber were now as it was one hundred years ago it would be worth as much as the improvements are today.

Along in the fifties when the people began to build frame barns and houses and the railroad was built to Cory and gave us shipping to water at Sandusky, the saw-mill business was given a great impetus, and the best part of this fine timber was cut into lumber either for domestic use or exported. This work gave employment to a great many men for thirty years, but now the saw mill industry is almost a thing of the past, and the quality of timber now used by the mills would not have been recognized as eligible in those days.

Very little of the original forest remains in the county, yet each farm has a lot of from five to thirty acres of woodland, mostly second growth, and some of the more enterprising farmers are planting and cultivating quick-growth trees. Among the most valuable timber was great quantities of black-walnut. Many farms were fenced with rails split out of this growth and the rails are in a good state of preservation to this day. During the Civil War, government contracts brought up a great part of the walnut with which to make gun stocks and many thousand were cut out in the rough in Findlay.

In the early part of 1850-60 land in Hancock County was at a low price. Good farms, half of which were cleared, could be bought for from ten to fifteen dollars an acre, much less than it would cost nowadays to hire it cleared up and fenced. The price advanced slowly as the settlers emerged from the poverty of pioneer life and during the war arose, or seemingly so, to a high figure, as high as $75 to $100 an acre, but as greenbacks—the war money issued by the government—were only worth about forty cents on the gold value, this price was fallacious, being in fact equal to about forty dollars per acre. Still land kept on steadily advancing in price, excepting during some panicky years, until now the farms of Hancock County are selling from ninety to one hundred and fifty dollars per acre. This has been largely brought about by the high price of farm products, especially corn, and the improved manner of farming. During the early days referred to, most of the farms had a mortgage on them, but these have been lifted and at the present time it is a rare thing to find a farm on which this encumbrance exists and is only found on some recently purchased tract. The farmer today is the prince of the realm. His residence is beautiful and commodious and his barns capacious, giving shelter to his stock and storage to his crops. The production of his acres has been largely increased and his stock has been bred up to one hundred per cent over the former conditions.

As previously stated, the county is well sup-

plied with schoolhouses and churches, and this with good roads, rural delivery of mail and a number of interurban railroads, life in the country is rendered agreeable and convenient.

As to Findlay, the county seat, located near the center of this productive county, it could be nothing less than prosperous, having a fine court house, jail, and sheriff's residence, a stone municipal building 50x200 feet and a full complement of schoolhouses and churches, with an elegant high school building.

The new court house had its inception in June, 1837, when the county commissioners advertised in the Findlay Courier that proposals would be received on the 4th of July following, at the auditor's office in Findlay to make two thousand good brick to build county buildings in Findlay and that a draft or model shall be drawn of the court house suitable for the county at the expense of the county.

With respect to the erection of this court house the records are incomplete, but it has been ascertained that John McCurdy was the builder and that the court house was probably begun in the latter part of 1837 and that it was completed in 1842, costing $7,953.22.

This structure answered its purpose for over forty years, at the end of which time the growth of the county and the consequent increase of business in the various offices demanded a larger and more substantial edifice. Accordingly, on April 17, 1885, the legislature of the state of Ohio passed an act authorizing the building of a court house in Findlay, Hancock county, Ohio, and the issuance of bonds to meet the payment of the same. On June 5, 1885, the committee, consisting of C. S. Kelley, J. M. Moorhead and A. S. Beck, commissioners of Hancock County; G. S. Galloway, appointed by the court of Common Pleas, together with G. W. Myers, probate judge; Lemuel McManness, sheriff, and Pressly E. Hay, clerk of the courts, met to make preliminary arrangements and consider the plans of the newly contemplated seat of justice.

August 11, 1886, the corner-stone of the new court house was laid amid appropriate ceremonies and a grand celebration consisting of speeches, music, parades and accompanied in the evening with a grand display of gas illuminations. The work of construction was pushed along as fast as possible and on October 27th, 1888, the building was dedicated to the use of the public.

The architecture of the building in the main is classic, though the roof is pitched, the inconvenience of a flat roof being thus avoided. The outside finish is entirely of stone, with rock face work and cut-stone trimmings. The front windows are large and showy, the smallest having a five-foot opening and the largest one of seven feet. Each window has forty-four square feet of plate glass or more and ample light is furnished in every part of the building. No wood whatever, excepting window-frames, doors and a portion of the floors, is used in the construction of the edifice, which is guaranteed fire-proof. The tower is 130 feet high from the ground to top and 107 feet to the center of the clock dial. It is finished with a dome roof surmounted with a statue of John Hancock sixteen feet high. The tower is built entirely of iron and stone and is 24 feet square. The clock dial is 9 feet in diameter and can be illuminated with gas or electric lights. The edifice is 142 feet long and 82 feet wide, and 146 feet from ground to top. Entrance into the first floor hall from the front on the east is through a stone portico supported by four pol-

ished granite columns 20 inches in diameter. This portico is designed as a protection for the first flight of steps so often left uncovered.

The portico, 12 feet high, is sumounted by an imposing entablature extending up to the roof. In this is a magnificent stained glass window 12 x 26 feet in size opening out upon the balcony, having an archway top and extending through two stories. This arch is surmounted with a group of feminine figures repsenting Justice, Law, and Mercy. Two small easy flights of stairs separated by a vestibule, lead through double doors into a spacious hallway running through the building, intercepted by a traverse hallway 18 feet wide and 75 feet long.

In the center is an octagon rotunda 20 feet square with a gallery up through and into the dome. It is furnished with tile floors and iron ceilings, and the walls are of fine pressed and enamelled brick. To the right of the hall near the entrance a door opens into the treasurer's office for the reception of city taxes and an archway from that leads into the main office of the same official, where taxes in general are received. Three places of entrance are provided and the room is 24 x 28 feet in dimensions. To the north and adjoining the general collecting room is the treasurers' money vault and private office, the private office being 13 x 15 feet in dimensions. This is about the size of all the private offices.

Immediately adjoining this office to the west is the auditor's offices consisting of three rooms. The main office is 30 x 35 feet in size and has communication with the treasurer's office by means of a sliding window. Besides the private office and workroom adjoining, there is a large fire-proof record vault 13 x 28 feet in dimensions and containing a window. To the south of and adjoining the auditor's vault and office is the commissioners room 17 x 24 feet.

On the left side at the front entrance is the sheriff's office, 16 x 18 feet in size. This is connected with the common pleas court room on the second floor by means of a private stairway.

At the south entrance of the traverse hall is the entrance to the probate court room, 24 x 30 feet in dimensions, which, like the auditor's office, is separated from the hall by a stained glass screen. Adjoining on the east side is the probate judge's office, while to the north of the office is the record vault. To the west of the probate court room is the retiring room for the witnesses, which is also used as a private office. The southwest portion of the first room is used by the recorder, who has a private office to the south and a record vault to the north of the main office.

The second floor may be reached by a large double iron staircase at the rear of the main hall. It has midway landings and a large stained glass window looks out in the rear. In the southwest portion of the room away from the din and noise of the streets is the common pleas court room 35 x 40 feet in dimensions. It is furnished with amphitheatre tiers of seats and the general public may gain entrance through large double doors. Back of the bar railings are several private entrances for officials and those having business with the court, so that they need not push their way through the crowds in the court room. The judge's bench is in an archway in the partition dividing the court from the judge's room and a room for the law library and for attorneys' consultation with clients.

On this floor also is conveniently located apartments for grand and petit juries and wait-

ing witnesses. The clerk's desk in the court room is connected directly with the clerk's suite of three offices in the front part of the second floor. In the northeast corner the prosecuting attorney has a good-sized office and convenient consultation rooms.

To the west of this office and at the north end of the traverse hall there is an office for the county school examiners.

In the northwest corner a room of ample size has been set apart as a circuit court room, and immediatel adyjoining this on the south is a large room for the circuit judges.

The basement has a spacious assembly hall for conventions and public gatherings. Besides this there is the surveyors' office, a public library room, reading room and janitor's boiler and work rooms most conveniently arranged. It will thus be seen that the county now has a public building adequate to all the purposes for which it was designed and there is no reason to doubt but that it will continue to meet the public wants for many years to come.

Formerly the city water supply was obtained from the Blanchard River, but the development of oil along this stream above the town contaminated the supply and forced the city to obtain its water from magnetic springs at Limestone Ridge ten miles above them, and this supply is pronounced the purest water supply of any town or city in the state. The water is conducted directly from the springs by conduits to the pumping station, and is not exposed to the light of day until drawn from the faucet. The supply is abundant and has shown no signs of exhaustion in the dryest seasons, it being used for all the purposes of the town. Since its introduction sickness has greatly decreased; cases of typhoid fever are quite rare, and no epidemics of any kind have struck the town since its use commenced five years ago. The city is the owner of the plant, and although largely in debt for it, it is on a good paying basis and the income is steadily increasing.

Findlay has no large factories but quite a number of small ones, and the workmen are not foreigners but our own citizens, most of whom own their own homes and are prosperous.

Aside from those given special notice are the Adams Machine Shops, manufacturing and repairing oil well machinery, making steam boilers, and bridge building; the National Oil Refinery, for the manufacturing of crude petroleum into its various products; the Chamberlin Cartridge and Target Works for the making of clay targets for trap shooting; the National Handle Works, Findlay Basket Factory, and other small industries. Several of those last mentioned are under the control of trusts who do not allow the managers to give out a single word relating to the business or output.

And now, after having traced the story and facts of this county of Hancock in the State of Ohio of America, from and even before its conception to the present time—from the time when land sold for one dollar an acre to the time when the same land sold for upwards of one hundred dollars an acre, and when lots sold in Findlay for ten dollars that are now worth ten thousand dollars; from the time when very little, if anything, was exported, and less if possible, was imported, to the time when thousands of car loads of the products of the fertile soil, are exported and an abundance of the

necessaries and comforts of life are imported; from the time when the inhabitants depended entirely for their living support upon their own products to the time when all depend largely for their wants upon the productions of some one else—I bring this history to a conclusion.

Time has rolled on until there is scarcely one of the pioneers of 1830 to '35 remaining to relate the "short and simple annals of the poor"; yet we owe it to ourselves and to posterity not only to preserve the records of their work in the past, but also the record of the present status of Hancock County, and in keeping with this thought I will close this final chapter with a statement of "First Things" followed by a Statistical Statement of the present standing of the county as furnished by our present genial auditor, Fred C. Shank.

SOME FIRST THINGS.

The first fair was held October 15th, 1852.

The first murder of record occurred in 1846. John Parish supposed to have been murdered by one B. F. Dulin.

The first gas and oil well of importance was struck November 5th, 1884, on the Oesterlin farm, east of Findlay.

The first assessor was Dan Alonzo Hamlin, 1828.

The first deed was one granted June 3rd, 1822, to John Gardner, being the W. pt. S. E. ¼ Sec. 13 T. 1 N. R. 10 East.

The first mortgage was executed February 8th, 1840, given to Isaac Jones by Jos. Remington, on the S. E. ¼ N. W. ¼ Sec. 1 T. 1. N. R. 11 E.

The first election was held on the first Monday of April, 1828.

The first case in court was Robert Elder vs. Asa Lake et al, April 17th, 1829.

The first will was made by John Wolford, June 26, 1829, and probated April 30, 1830.

The first administrator was William Taylor, administrator of the John Patterson estate, March 19, 1829.

The first physician was Dr. Bass Rawson, who came in September, 1829.

The first lawyer was Edson Goit, in August, 1832.

The first bank—The First National, 1863.

The first death of resident was that of Mrs. Matthew Reighley, 1822.

The first mail carrier was Joseph Gordon.

The first mail route was established in 1820.

The first lodge was the I. O. O. F., established in 1848.

The first minister of the Gospel was the Rev. James Gilruth, in 1822.

The first newspaper was The Findlay Courier, Nov. 10, 1836.

The first street railroad was opened on Main Street in 1887.

The first telephone line was established in 1879.

The telegraph line was established in 1862.

The first settlement in Hancock County was made in 1815 by Benj. Cox.

The first white person born was Lydia Cox, in 1815.

The first entry of land was made by Joseph Vance, William Mill and Elnathan Cory, on the third of July, 1821, being the S. pt. S. W. ¼ and S. E. ¼ Sec. 8 and E.

pt. S. E. ¼ Sec. 13 and N. E. pt. N. E. ¾ Sec. 17 T. 1 N. R. 10 East.

The first church was built 1822, known as the Duke's Meeting House, west of Findlay.

The first schoolhouse was in Findlay.

The first teacher was Joseph White.

The first marriage was performed Sept. 2, 1824, by W. Vance, justice of the peace and the participating parties being Samuel Kepler and Rachel McKinnis.

The first divorce was granted Aug. 17, 1846, to Benj. and Elizabeth Tremain.

The first court was held March 14, 1828.

The first court house was ordered built Jan. 16, 1832.

The first jail ordered built July 3, 1830.

The first bridge was built across the Blanchard River at Findlay in 1843.

The first railroad was built in 1849 from Findlay to Carey.

The first county road was located from Findlay to Vanlue, ordered Sept. 16, 1829.

FIRST SCHOOLHOUSES.

Name of Township.	Date.
Allen	1836
Amanda	1831
Biglick	1836
Blanchard	1833
Cass	1836
Delaware	1830
Eagle	1834
Findlay	1827
Jackson	1832
Liberty	1832
Madison	1833
Marion	1836
Orange	1837
Pleasant	1838
Union	1838
Portage	1837
Van Buren	1842
Washington	1833

FIRST CHURCHES.

Presbyterian	1843
German Lutheran	1831
Methodist	1837
Methodist	1836
Methodist	1844
Methodist	1834
Evangelical	1835
Methodist	1838
Methodist	1838
Methodist	1851
Methodist	1858
Baptist	1836
Plainfield Society of the Seceder	1836
Methodist	1850
United Brethren	1848
Baptist	1836
The Advents	1854
Methodist	1835

FIRST SETTLERS.

Township.	Name.	Description.	Date.
Allen	Nathan Frakes	W. ½ N. E. ¼ Sec. 13	1827
Amanda	Thomas Thompson	E. ½ N. W. ¼ Sec. 3	1822
Biglick	Henry McWhorter	W. ½ S. E. ¼ Sec. 3	1823
Blanchard	John Hunter and Benj. Chandler	S. W. ¼ Sec 16	1823
Cass	David P. Day	N. W. ¼ Sec. 11	1821
Delaware	Asa Lake	W. ½ N. E. ¼ Sec. 1	1821
Eagle	Adam Woodruff and John Woodruff	W. ½ S. W. ¼ Sec. 25 and S. E. ¼ Sec. 26 and N. E. ¼ Sec 26. W. ½ N. W. ¼ Sec. 25	1829

Findlay	Benj. Cox	Opp. Ft. Findlay & W. ½ N. E. ¼ Sec.	1815
Jackson	Mordecai Hannond	W. ½ S. E. ¼ Sec. 35	1827
Liberty	Rob. McKinnis and Chas. McKinnis	E. Pt. N. W. ¼ Sec. 7	1822
Madison	Simeon Ransbottom	W. Pt. S. W. ¼ Sec. 7	1822
Marion	Jos. A. Sargeant	N. ½ W. ½ S. W. ¼ Sec. 11	1825
Orange	Henry L. Dally	E. ½ N. W. ¼ Sec. 21	1827
Pleasant	Edw. Stephenson	S. E. ¼ Sec. 19	1834
Portage	John Thompson	W. ½ N. E. ¼ Sec. 27	1833
Union	Philip Cramer	W. ½ N. W. ¼ Sec. 27	1833
Van Buren	Benj. Sparr, Charles O. Bradford, Charles Herron and George Hart	E. ½ & E. ½ N. W. ¼ Sec. 1	1831
		N. W. ¼ Sec. 27	1831
Washington	John Gorsuch	N. E. ¼ Sec. 1	1831

ROSTER OF COUNTY OFFICIALS.

Note—Except in a few instances, the name of an official who served two or more terms is not repeated.

COMMISSIONERS.

Name.	Commencement of Term.
Godfrey Wolford	1828
John Long	1828
John P. Hambleton	1828
Charles McKinnis	1828
Mordecai Hammond	1829
Robert L. Strother	1831
John Rose	1832
John Byal	1833
John L. Carson	1834
William Taylor	1835
Darius Smith	1835
Aquilla Gilbert	1837
Daniel Fairchild	1838
George Shaw	1839
Andrew Ricketts	1841
Peter George	1843
John Lafferty	1844
William Taylor	1845
William W. Hughes	1847
Thomas Kelly	1848
Elias Cole	1849
Jacob Bushong	1853
William Davis	1854
John McKinley	1855
John Graham	1857
Isaac Cusac	1859
Conrad Line	1861
Jacob Bushong	1862
John Cooper	1862
William Taylor	1863
David W. Engle	1864
William M. Marshall	1868
Samuel Creighton	1869
Joseph Saltzman	1871
John D. Bishop	1872
John Edgington	1874
Ross W. Moore	1876
Lewis Luneack	1878
Bateman B. Powell	1880
Charles S. Kelly	1882
John M. Moorehead	1883
Isaac M. Watkins	1886
George W. Krout	1887
Jacob Pepple	1889
Christian Garber	1891
Henry B. Rader	1893
Benjamin F. Wineland	1895
John A. Anderson	1896
Jacob R. Tussing	1897
Israel W. George	1900
Isaac Hart	1901
Abraham J. Overholt	1902
J. W. Montgomery	1906
J. C. Greer	1907
Jefferson Roller	1909
Lewis W. Brickman	1909

SCHOOL EXAMINERS.

William Taylor	1828
William Hackney	1828

Mordecai Hammond 1828
William L. Henderson 1830
Bass Rawson 1830
Thomas F. Johnston 1830
Robert L. Strother 1830
James Taylor 1833
Philip Cole 1833
Aquilla Gilbert 1833
David Patton 1838
Daniel Woodward 1838
Arnold F. Merriam 1838
Jacob Barnd 1839
Charles W. O'Neal 1839
George Van Eman 1839
Charles W. O'Neal 1841
William Taylor 1841
William H. Baldwin 1842
Erastus Thompson 1843
Charles W. O'Neal 1844
Jacob Barnd 1843
Machias C. Whiteley 1845
William Mungen 1845
Aaron H. Bigelow 1845
William Thomas 1846
John H. Reid 1849
Henry Brown 1849
Aaron Blackford 1849
John Bowman 1850
Alonzo L. Kimber 1850
Henry K. Leonard 1853
Henry H. Alban 1851
John Morris 1853
Wesley Quibley 1854
Alonzo L. Kimber 1855
James B. Hall 1855
John F. Caples 1855
John Bowman 1856
John Morris 1857
James Seed 1858
Ephraim Miller 1859
Lewis Tussing 1860
John Bowman 1861
William L. Leonard 1863
Lewis Tussing 1865
John Bowman 1865
Henry Sheets 1865
William Anderson 1867
George Pendleton 1867
Joseph R. Kagy 1873
Eli J. Sheldon 1873
John Pirrsford 1870
Dorilus Martz 1875
William T. Platt 1876
R. R. Sutherland 1877
Samuel A. Kagy 1879
William T. Platt 1880
John N. Doty 1881
Ed. M. Mills 1883
David P. Hagerty 1885
Lewis B. May 1887
Henry M. Hause 1889
Hilliard D. Boulware 1891
Jacob M. Laws 1892
Willoughby N. Shank 1893
Darius S. Finton 1897
Philip M. Cox 1898
A. L. Cunningham 1899
D. W. Campbell 1901
James B. Steen 1902
Andrew Morland 1903
A. N. Krieg 1904
Harvy O. Fellers 1904
E. M. Crawford 1905
V. Hainen, Jr. 1906

INFIRMARY DIRECTORS.

(The county had no infirmary until 1867.)

Washington Morehart 1867
Moses Kelly 1867
Conrad Renninger 1867
Jacob Thompson 1871
Jacob Bushong 1872
Richard M. Watson 1874
Campbell Byal 1876
David Bibler 1878
James M. Cusac 1883
Jones R. Miller 1884
Alexander Morrison 1888
William R. McKee 1888
Frank Morrell 1890
William J. Cusac 1891
William Karn 1893
Andrew J. Fisher 1894
Charles J. Harkness 1894

William M. Moorhead 1897
Joseph T. Bartoon 1898
Jacob Mitchell 1900
Robert Dorney 1902
Samuel Mosier 1904
Isaac Gibson 1906
David Wright 1907
Frank Copland 1909
David Spangler 1909
August Meuman 1909

PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS.

Anthony Casad 1828
Edson Goit 1832
Arnold F. Merriman 1836
Jacob Barnd, appointed to fill vacancy.... 1838
Jude Ball 1838
Abel F. Parker 1842
William M. Patterson 1844
John E. Rosette 1849
William Gribben 1854
James A. Bope, resigned to enter army.. 1862
Henry Brown 1862
William A. Anderson 1868
George F. Pendleton 1872
Aaron B. Shaffer 1880
Harlan F. Burket 1891
Theodore Totten 1894
Charles E. Jordan 1897
William L. David 1903
Charles Blackford 1909

COUNTY TREASURERS.

Joshua Hedges 1828
Edwin S. Jones 1829
Squire Carlin 1831
Edson Goit 1839
Levi Taylor 1843
Wilson Vance 1845
Mahlon Morris 1847
Samuel Howard 1851
Benjamin Huber 1855
William Vanlue 1857
Samuel Spitler 1863
Henry B. Wall 1867
Henry Sheets 1870
Peter Hosler 1875
William J. Creighton 1883
Andrew Moore 1887
Oliver P. Shaw 1889
David Hosler 1893
John Parker 1895
Andrew Bish 1899
William S. Bish 1902
J. W. Whetstone 1904
William J. Frey 1908

PROBATE JUDGES OF HANCOCK COUNTY, OHIO.

The new constitution of Ohio established this office; was adopted in 1851.

James H. Barr 1852
Nathaniel E. Childs 1855
James H. Barr 1858
Alfred W. Fredricks 1861
Gamaliel C. Barnd 1867
Samuel B. Huffman..... 1873
S. J. Siddall 1879
G. W. Myers 1885
A. E. Kerns 1891
J. D. Snyder 1897
G. G. Banker 1903
H. O. Dorsey 1909

SHERIFFS.

Don Alonzo Hamlin 1828
John W. Wickham 1829
Joseph Johnson 1831
Christian Barnd 1834
Jacob Rosenberg 1838
Elisha Brown 1842
Alonzo D. Wing 1844
Absalom P. Byall 1846
Hiram Williams 1848
Thomas Buckley 1850
James Robinson 1852
William W. Yates 1854
Daniel D. McCahan 1855
Abraham Yerger 1867
Samuel Myers 1869
James L. Henry 1873
Parlee C. Tritch 1877
Charles B. Hall 1881
Lemuel McMannis 1885
George L. Cusac 1887

Joseph T. Bartoon 1891
John Wren 1895
Ervin E. Ewing 1897
Ira Bushong 1901
E. L. Groves 1905
J. S. Johns 1908

RECORDERS.

Wilson Vance 1828
Parley Carlin 1835
Jacob Barnd 1838
John Adams 1844
Paul Sours 1847
Isaac J. Baldwin 1853
Adam Steinman 1860
Luther B. Robinson 1866
Paul Kemerer 1872
Joseph F. Gutzwiler 1878
John B. Foltz 1884
John Baker 1890
John C. Mitchell 1893
Alvin S. Thomas 1896
William F. Bloom 1902
A. C. Ewing 1908

SURVEYORS OF HANCOCK COUNTY.

William Taylor 1828
William L. Henderson 1832
Joel Pendleton 1838
George W. Powell 1854
Joel Pendleton 1857
Edwin Phifer 1876
Ulyssus K. Stringfellow 1885
John W. S. Riegel 1891
Elmer C. Bolton 1896
Edwin Phifer 1897
Elmer C. Bolton 1900
Harry Glathart 1906
Elmer Hilty 1908

COUNTY AUDITORS.

Matthew Reighley 1828
William Hackney 1829
Thomas F. Johnson 1831
Joseph C. Shannon 1832
Edson Goit 1836
Charles W. O'Neal 1837
William L. Henderson 1839
James H. Barr 1842
James S. Balentine 1845
William Mungen 1847
Elijah Barnd 1851
Henry Brown 1855
Aaron Howard 1857
Henry Sheets 1861
Solomon Shaffer 1865
John L. Hill 1869
George S. Mosier 1873
Joseph R. Kagy 1877
William T. Platt 1883
C. B. Metcalf 1890
Surrell P. DeWolf 1896
John A. Sutton 1902
Frank C. Shank 1908

CLERK OF COURT.

Wilson Vance 1828
William H. Baldwin 1835
William L. Henderson 1842
Absalom P. Byall 1848
William W. Siddall 1855
James Dennison 1864
Peter Pifer 1870
Scott W. Prebble 1876
Henry H. Louthan 1879
Presley E. Hay 1885
Louis P. Julien 1891
Phillip W. Ewing 1900
W. P. Alspach 1906

CORONERS.

Thomas Slight 1828
Joseph Dewitt 1831
Peter Byall 1835
Henry Lamb 1837
Noah Wilson 1840
Joshua Hedges 1840
Allen McCahan 1842
Norman Chamberlain 1844
Alonzo D. Wing 1845
Hiram Williams 1846
Harmon Warrell 1850
Garrett D. Teatsworth 1852
Daniel D. McCahan 1854

Edwin Parker 1856
Parley C. Tritch 1861
Abraham Yerger 1865
Frank J. Karst 1873
Daniel F. Cline 1875
T. G. Barnhill, M. D. 1877
John C. Tritch, M. D. 1881
Jesse A. Howell, M. D. 1889
Jacob E. Powell, M. D. 1893
Theron S. Wilson, M. D. 1895
Ralph E. Brake, M. D. 1899
Alfred W. Balsley, M. D. 1903
Don C. Biggs, M. D. 1906
Calvin Todd, M. D. 1908

REPRESENTATIVES FROM HANCOCK COUNTY TO THE STATE LEGISLATURE.

S. M. Lockwood 1830
Josiah Hedges 1831
Harvey J. Harmon 1832
James L. Everet 1833
James L. Everet 1834
James Hubbard 1835
James Hubbard 1836
W. B. Craighill 1837
Parley Carlin 1838
William Taylor 1839
Moses McAnnelly 1840
Moses McAnnelly 1841
G. W. Baird 1842
Henry C. Bish, George Baird 1843
Wm. C. Craighill, Samuel Wagoner 1844
Elijah Huntington 1845
Lyman Parker 1846
John McMahan 1847
Emery D. Potter 1848
Machias C. Whiteley 1849
Machias C. Whiteley 1850
Henry Bishop 1852
John F. Purkey 1856
Parley Carlin 1858
John Wescott 1860
William Gribben 1864
Isaac Cusac 1868
Aaron B. Shaffer 1872
Charles Osterlin 1874
Wm. M. McKinley 1876
Alex. Phillips 1878
Henry Sheets 1880
Wm. H. Wheeler 1882
Absalom P. Byall 1886
Henry Brown 1890
George A. Carney 1892
Charles Bright 1894
Jacob A. Kimmell 1896
Oliver P. Shaw 1898
R. D. Cole 1900
M. M. Carothers 1904
M. G. Foster 1906
D. P. Haggerty 1908

HON. W. H. KINDER

Representative Citizens

HON. W. H. KINDER, judge of the Circuit Court in the Third Circuit of Ohio, to which honorable office he was elected in 1908, has been a resident of Findlay for over two decades and has been a leading member of her bar for the same period. Judge Kinder was born October 12, 1856, at Hamilton, Ohio, and is a son of William Ross and Agnes (Long) Kinder.

Judge Kinder's ancestors came to America from Holland and the first of the family to establish himself in America was Valentine Kinder, who is recorded as a settler in Berks County, Pa., in 1756. His son, Philip Kinder, was born in Holland and he took part in the Revolutionary War.

George Kinder, son of Philip Kinder, was the father of Abraham Kinder, who was the pioneer of the family in Ohio. He entered the land which became the family homestead, in Warren County, Ohio, and it was his industry and Dutch thrift that cleared up the wilderness farm and provided abundantly for a numerous progeny. Of his many sturdy sons, George Kinder, the grandfather of Judge Kinder, was born in Warren County, in 1800. For a long time he engaged in farming and he also became the owner of a line of boats which he operated on the Miami and Erie Canal. He died in 1863, surviving his son, William Ross Kinder, for three years.

William Ross Kinder, father of Judge Kinder, was born in December, 1826, at Franklin, Ohio, and died at Hamilton in his thirty-fourth year. At an unusually early age he was admitted to the bar and displayed remarkable legal ability. When Hon. John B. Weller was appointed a member of the commission to decide the boundary lines between Mexico and California, he left Hamilton, of which city he had been a resident for some time, and went to the West, inviting Mr. Kinder to accompany him as his private secretary. When the work of the commission was satisfactorily completed, a law partnership was formed between Mr. Weller and Mr. Kinder, and they engaged in practice as a firm, for two years in California. In 1852, however, Mr. Kinder returned to the East, was married at Cincinnati, and in the same year embarked in the newspaper business, purchasing and conducting the Hamilton Telegraph, with which he remained identified until 1858. In that year he was elected probate judge of Butler County, but did not long sur-

vive his promotion to the Bench, his death occurring on February 10, 1860. He was survived by his widow, formerly Agnes Long, a daughter of Jacob and Maria (L'Hommedieu) Long. To this marriage were born four sons: William R., Charles L. H., Walter H. and Stephen L'Hommedieu Kinder.

Walter H. Kinder was educated in the Hamilton schools, graduating from the High School in 1874, after which he taught school for one year, in Putnam County, and subsequently spent a year as a clerk with Robert Clark & Company, at Cincinnati. He then turned his attention to the law, becoming a student under ex-Gov. James E. Campbell, and was admitted to the bar at Hamilton, March 31, 1879. After several years of initial practice, at Ottawa, Ohio, he located permanently at Findlay and has been prominently identified with the interests of this section ever since. His practice, with the exception of from 1890 until 1893, has been continuous, during the above period he having served in public office, being State superintendent of insurance. When he returned to Findlay he entered into a law partnership with George W. Ross, under the style of Ross & Kinder, which continued until Judge Kinder was elevated to the Bench. For many years he has been a leader in Democratic circles, but has been chary of accepting political office which would in any way interfere with his professional work. His election to the Bench, in 1908, was a just recognition of his judicial qualities which his many years of legal practice had made many times manifest.

On August 26, 1886, Judge Kinder was married to Miss Helen F. Tupper, a daughter of the late Dr. C. E. Tupper, formerly of Ottawa, Ohio, and they have four children: Walter Tupper, Margaret V., William Randall and Charles Edwin. Judge Kinder and family reside in one of Findlay's handsome residences, their home being situated at No. 824 Washington Avenue.

HON. GEORGE F. PENDLETON, formerly mayor of the city of Findlay, O., prosecuting attorney of Hancock County and judge of the Court of Common Pleas, for years has been a prominent and useful citizen of Western Ohio, and is one of the leaders of the Findlay bar. He was born September 27, 1840, in Waldo County, now known as Knox County, Me., a son of Darius Pendleton, who brought his family to Hancock County, O., in 1841.

George F. Pendleton's boyhood was spent on his father's farm and he gained his education in the country schools and early began to teach, spending his winters in the school-room and his summers in agricultural labor. This continued up to the second year of the Civil War. His father and a younger brother, John Pendleton, having become soldiers, he had remained on the farm during the first year of the great struggle, but in 1862 he also entered the army, becoming a member of Co. G, 118th O. Vol. Inf., of which his father was first lieutenant. In this same regiment, but on detached service at times, he remained until June 5, 1865, when he was mustered out at Columbus. Entering as a private, he was soon advanced in rank to corporal and later was made chief clerk of the post commissary, with headquarters at Kingston, Tenn. After the war was over much remained to be done in every department and Mr. Pendleton's business qualifications were recognized by those in charge of closing the military accounts of different officers, they inviting him to give them assistance in this arduous clerical work. He accepted, but his health

had been already impaired and in the succeeding August he felt it necessary to resign from this commission and afterward returned to Hancock County.

After a period of recuperation, Mr. Pendleton re-entered the educational field, where his previous record had been most creditable, and he continued to teach until 1867, when he was appointed chief deputy to the Collector of Internal Revenue for the old Fifth District of Ohio, an office he filled for two years, making his headquarters at Findlay. While in the South he had studied law and completed his course with the firm of Brown & Anderson, at Findlay. He was admitted to the bar in December, 1870, immediately entering into a law partnership with W. H. Anderson. The firm of Anderson & Pendleton was dissolved in 1876, at which time Mr. Pendleton became associated with his former preceptor, Henry Brown, with whom he continued for two years. Mr. Pendleton then practiced alone until 1883, in the fall of that year being elected judge of the Court of Common Pleas, for the Tenth District. For seven years Judge Pendleton filled that office with the dignity and efficiency of a thoroughly qualified man, and since retiring from the Bench has continued in private practice and has been connected with a large part of the important litigation in the courts of this section.

Judge Pendleton has ever been an active citizen and his worth has many times been publicly recognized. He has been called upon to serve on many boards and commissions designed to assist in the advancement of the general welfare. In April, 1870, he was elected mayor of Findlay, in which honorable office he served usefully for two years, leaving the municipal chair in order to assume the duties of county prosecuting attorney. From January 1, 1872, until January 1, 1876, he proved himself an able, forceful and courageous public official in that difficult office. From 1867 to 1875 he was county school examiner and also city school examiner for a number of years. Judge Pendleton's interest in educational work has never lessened and even when suffering from the stress and strain of great responsibilities, he has continued to assume the cares of offices by which he has been able to add to the efficiency of the public school system in county and city.

HON. O. P. SHAW, one of the prominent farmers and highly esteemed citizens of Hancock County, O., is the owner of 370 acres of valuable farm land, 180 acres of which lie in Blanchard Township, and the remaining 190 acres, on which he resides, are located in Section 7, Liberty Township. He was born October 1, 1844, in Blanchard Township, Hancock County, O., a son of George and Elizabeth (Wise) Shaw, and is a grandson of George Shaw, Sr., who came to Hancock County, O., about 1826 and settled in Blanchard Township.

George Shaw, Jr., was born in Stark County, O., and when a small boy came with his parents to Hancock County, and settled in Blanchard Township, where he spent the remainder of his life. He was a farmer by occupation, and politically was a Democrat, but never sought office. His marriage with Elizabeth Wise, who died in about 1849, resulted in the birth of six children, all but two of whom are still living. Mr. Shaw died in 1855 at the age of thirty-three years, and was buried at Duke Cemetery in Blanchard Township.

Hon. O. P. Shaw was reared in Blanchard

Township, and after completing his education, which was obtained in the local schools and at Findlay, joined the Union army, for service in the Civil War, enlisting with Co. H, 15th Ohio Vol. Inf. He was taken prisoner once, while in Kentucky, but paroled in a few days, and was wounded at the battle of Chickamauga. After the close of the war Mr. Shaw returned to Blanchard Township, where he continued to reside for two years after his marriage, and in 1868 located on his present farm in Liberty Township. Here he engaged in general farming until elected treasurer of Hancock County, in 1888, and during his four years of incumbency resided at Findlay, returning to his father-in-law's farm in Blanchard Township in 1896. In 1900 he again removed to his farm in Liberty Township, and has since continued his residence here. Mr. Shaw was elected a member of the Ohio Legislature in 1897 and served one term as a member of that body, after which he retired from political activities. He has always been a Republican in politics and has served as a trustee of the township.

Mr. Shaw was actively interested in the Findlay Basket Factory, which was destroyed by fire in 1895 and was never rebuilt; has served as a member of the Hancock County Agricultural Board, and has been president of the Peoples' Banking Company of McComb, since the reorganization and incorporation of same.

Mr. Shaw married Mary J. Downing, who is a daughter of David and Maretta Downing, of Blanchard Township, and their union resulted in the following issue: Olive; May, who died in 1893, aged twenty-two years, was buried at the Findlay Cemetery; Ethel, who died January 5, 1890, aged seventeen years; Vina, who is the wife of W. F. Brickman of Findlay; David; George, who is a resident of Blanchard Township, married a Miss Weber; Jane, who is the wife of Edward Reimund of Findlay; and Dorothy, who is the wife of Merle Swartz of Findlay. The family attends the Presbyterian church.

WILLIAM DIEBLEY, one of the substantial and representative residents of Big Lick Township, Hancock County, O., owning 155 acres in Section 2, owns a second farm of eighty acres situated in Section 35, Washington Township. He was born at Canton, O., June 23, 1832. His father was known as Henry Duble and this name was retained by him as long as he lived, but changed to Diebley, when his widow and children later came to Hancock County.

Henry Duble was born in Germany and before marriage came to America and established himself in the meat business at Canton, O., where he was later joined by the lady to whom he had been attached in their native land. They were married at Canton and there Henry Duble died. Of the five children, William is the only survivor. Two daughters, Katherine and Mary, died early, and one son, Lewis, was killed while serving as a soldier in the Civil War. The mother was married a second time, becoming Mrs. Jacob Barger, and two sons were born to the second marriage: John and George Barger, the latter of whom is deceased.

William Diebley was two years old when he was brought to Big Lick Township, Hancock County, and he remained with his stepfather until he was twenty-one years of age. He obtained his education in an old log schoolhouse in the neighborhood. When he started out for himself he went to Iowa, where he entered 500 acres of land from the government

and lived there for fourteen years and then came back to Hancock County and bought his present home farm from his step-father. For many years Mr. Diebley carried on general farming and stock raising for himself but in late years the heaviest responsibilities have been assumed by his son. In addition to his farm properties, Mr. Diebley owns three fine residences at Fostoria.

On May 14, 1857, Mr. Diebley was married to Miss Amelia Sweet, who was born in New York, December 20, 1840, and they have had six children born to them and they have fourteen grandchildren, descendants of whom they have every reason to be proud. Lewis E., the eldest son, resides at Miller City, O., and has one son, Chester. Carrie A., the eldest daughter, was married first to Clark Young, who is deceased, and they had one child, Frances, and was married second to Rev. M. S. White, of Fostoria, and they have one child, Ruth. William lives with his family at North Baltimore, O., and has two daughters: Ethel and Hazel. Ida J. married Charles Moore, of Washington Township, and they have four children: Len, Ralph, Floyd and Stanley. John is his father's farmer, resides at home, married Millie Fruit, and has three children: Harold, Frances and Elden. Minnie is the wife of Robert Graham, of Washington Township, and they have two children: Clarence and Ellsworth. Mr. and Mrs. Diebley are members of the United Brethren church. In politics he is a Republican and while living in Iowa, during the Civil War, he was an enrolling officer. Mr. Diebley is widely known and is held in very high regard by his fellow citizens.

CHARLES C. DUKES, who is engaged in general farming on a tract of eighty acres, located in Section 10, Marion Township, Hancock County, O., was born June 9, 1858, at Vanlue, Hancock County, O., and is a son of John and Elizabeth (Meeks) Dukes.

John Dukes was a native of Fairfield County, O., but subsequently located in Hancock County where he followed carpentering for some years. He later purchased a farm of forty acres located about two miles east of Findlay, and died there in 1872 from injuries received by a kick from a horse. He married Elizabeth Meeks, who died in 1868. Her father was one of the early settlers of the county. Their union resulted in the birth of three children: Alice, who is the wife of Harry Williams; Charles C., the subject of this record; and Dora, who is the wife of John Health.

Charles C. Dukes at an early age was left an orphan and afterward made his home with George Stow, who resided on the old Heimhofer farm about three miles north of Findlay. His educational advantages were very limited, as he was obliged to assist with the farm work, and at the age of eighteen years he left the Stow household and began working out by the month. He later rented the Robert Thornburg farm of 115 acres in Allen Township for three years, then operated the George Stow farm of eighty acres for six years, and the George Snyder farm of 174 acres for three years, and he and his son also operated the Goodman farm of 174 acres for about six years. In 1890 he purchased his present farm of eighty acres from the Coons estate, and has since added many improvements to the place.

Mr. Dukes was first united in marriage with Ida Wagner, and they had one son, Clyde, who was born June 8, 1883. He assists his father in operating the farm. Mr. Dukes formed a second union with Elizabeth Giltz, a daughter

of Peter and Jane Giltz, of Defiance, O., and they have one daughter, Dora, who was born June 23, 1904. Mr. and Mrs. Dukes are members of the Baptist church. He is politically a Democrat, and is affiliated with the Order of Ben Hur at Findlay, O.

LEROY E. GARBER, of the firm of Garber & Garber, proprietors of the Garber Seed & Wool Company, with business quarters at No. 109 E. Sandusky Street, Findlay, O., was born on a farm in Big Lick Township, Hancock County, O., eight miles east of Findlay, November 21, 1876. He is a son of Christian and Elizabeth F. (Leonard) Garber.

Christian Garber was born in France in 1848 and when five years old was brought to America by his father, Peter Garber. The latter settled first on farming land in Marion Township, Hancock County, O., and later moved to Big Lick Township, where he died in 1892. Christian Garber continued to live in Big Lick Township until 1893, when he came to Findlay, but still retains a forty-acre farm. He married Elizabeth F. Leonard, who was born in Big Lick Township, a daughter of Samuel B. Leonard, who was a native of Columbiana County.

Leroy E. Garber was reared on the home farm and attended the country schools and later taught one term of school in Paulding County, O. He was twenty-two years of age when he left the farm and came to Findlay, and on October 2, 1899, started the present business. The company handles all kinds of seed and wool. The business is in a prosperous condition and Mr. Garber is numbered with the successful young business men of the city.

Mr. Garber married Miss Aura D. Enfield, who was born and reared in Big Lick Township, a daughter of James A. Enfield, who was a prominent farmer of that section and whose death took place in October, 1909. Mr. and Mrs. Garber have three children: John Wilbur, Frances Emma and Howard, aged respectively, eleven, nine and four years. Mr. Garber has been identified with Lodge No. 400 Knights of Pythias for some years.

BATEMAN B. POWELL, formerly county commissioner of Hancock County, O., and a leading farmer of Blanchard Township, where he owns 170 acres of valuable land, was born in Fairfield County, O., May 14, 1833. His parents were Daniel and Eliza (Beatty) Powell.

Daniel Powell was born in Union County, Pa., and was seven years of age when his parents brought him to Fairfield County, in 1814. He grew to manhood there and in 1832 was married to Eliza Beatty, who died at the age of sixty-eight years. They had eight children: Bateman B.; Peter, who is deceased; Mary, who married Jacob Whitehurst; Sarah, who married Samuel Raney; Daniel, who married Mary Cheesebrough; Elizabeth, who was married twice, first to Charles Weisner and second to James Wells; Alexander, who married Rebecca Jackson; and John, who married a Miss Shoeman. After marriage, Daniel Powell and wife lived for a time in Fairfield County and then moved to Wyandot County and there both he and wife died, he surviving to the age of seventy-seven years. He was a farmer and in early manhood had visited Blanchard and Eagle Townships in Hancock County and

had entered several tracts of land but had never lived on them. He was a stanch Jacksonian Democrat and so impressed his sons with the justice of those principles that all have followed in his political footsteps. Both he and wife were members of the United Brethren church.

Bateman B. Powell remembers the first school he attended, the log cabin in which it was held being at Greencastle, in Fairfield County. The trustees had not expended a great deal of money to fit the building with many luxuries, the seats being of rough slabs and a fireplace at one end affording the heat necessary. However, at that time, many of the pioneer homes were no better equipped and the stern discipline of those days certainly produced a type of men and women which the present generation can regard with pride and in many cases, may profitably emulate. After his marriage, in 1857, Mr. Powell and wife remained on a farm in Fairfield County until the spring of 1860 and then came to Blanchard Township, Hancock County, where they have lived ever since and have the distinction of being the oldest married couple in this township. Mr. and Mrs. Powell went to housekeeping in a cabin of two rooms, on a tract of twenty acres. Gradually he increased his possessions until he had acquired 400 acres, this land having been entered from the Government in 1833. Mr. Powell has been generous to his children, church and neighborhood, having given all his land away except 170 acres. He cleared about 300 acres himself, put in the drainage and erected the substantial buildings.

In Fairfield County, O., in 1857, Mr. Powell was married to Miss Elizabeth Whitehurst, a daughter of John Whitehurst, and they have four children: Margaret V., who married Charles Heckman and they live in Blanchard Township; America Belle, who is the wife of John Kisseberth, a farmer in Blanchard Township; Sherman E., who married Ella Faller, now deceased; and Henderson E., who lives at Findlay, married Daisy Wells. Mr. and Mrs. Powell are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and he assisted liberally in the erection of the brick edifice at Benton Ridge. He served as county commissioner from December 6, 1880, to December 3, 1883, retiring from office with the confidence of his fellow citizens to accompany him into private life

HARLEY CLIFTON ELSEA, a general farmer in Jackson Township, where he owns seventy-eight acres of excellent land, was born in Eagle Township, Hancock County, O., August 18, 1881, and is a son of I. N. and Jane (Line) Elsea.

I. N. Elsea and wife were both born in Hancock County and they live retired on North Lincoln Street, Findlay. During his active years he operated a livery stable for two years but with that exception, devoted himself to farming. He is a survivor of the Civil War and during his months of service was with the troops that were active in preventing the cooperation of the forces under Gen. Lee and Gen. Johnson.

Harley C. Elsea was educated in the public schools and his business has always been farming, with the exception of the year 1901. when he was associated with his father in a livery business, on West Crawford Street, Findlay. He then returned to the homestead and rented it for five years, after

which he purchased his present farm of his father and has been engaged in its cultivation and improvement ever since.

On September 14, 1905, Mr. Elsea was married to Miss Rose Glaspie, and they have one child, Edna Flora, who was born March 4, 1907. Mr. Elsea votes the Republican ticket but has never aspired to office, finding both profit and contentment in devoting himself to his agricultural interests.

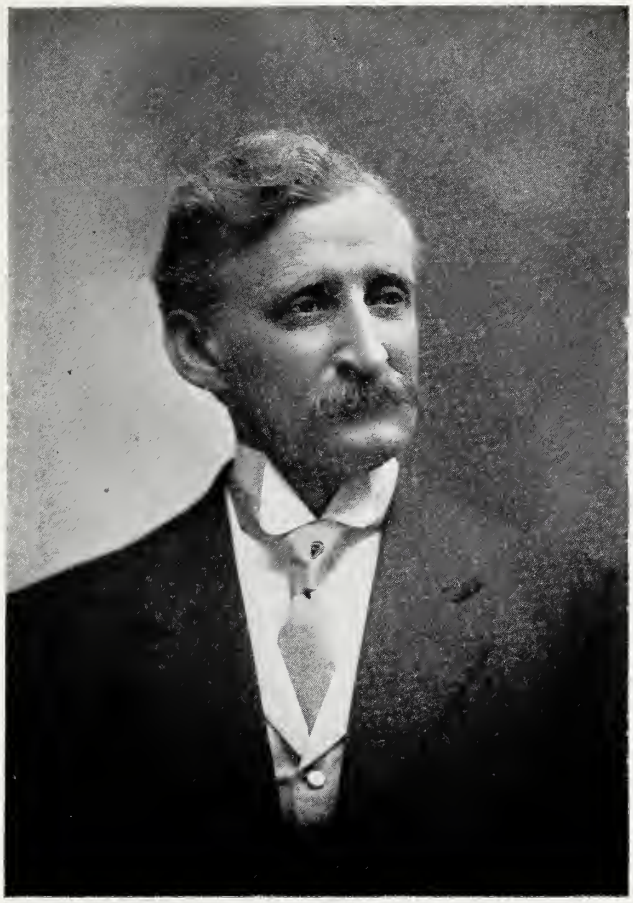
LYMAN M. CONINE, who is the owner of what was long known as the old D. C. Warner farm, containing ninety-nine acres, situated in Section 15, Portage Township, Hancock County, O., was born in Blanchard Township, Hancock County, March 20, 1860, and is a son of James Harvey and Elizabeth (Greer) Conine.

James H. Conine was born in the State of New York, a son of Peter Conine, but was reared in Licking County, O. He married there and then came to Hancock County and settled on a farm in Blanchard Township. When civil war broke out he enlisted for service and remained in the army for three years and then returned to his farm of 120 acres. He subsequently sold it and his death occurred at McComb, in January, 1908, his wife having passed away February 8, 1901.

Lyman M. Conine was reared and educated in Blanchard Township and has been engaged in farming since the termination of his school days. After marriage he bought forty acres of farm land in Blanchard Township, Putnam County, and also owned forty acres in Blanchard Township, Hancock County, and for seventeen years he and family lived on the former farm. He then moved to the old farm in Hancock County and operated it for two years, moving from there to a farm north of Duke's church, containing eighty acres, which he sold six years later and came to his present place in January, 1909. He makes no particular specialty but is a first class all round farmer. His place contained 100 acres before one acre was given as the site for the Pleasant Hill schoolhouse.

On March 13, 1884, Mr. Conine was married to Miss Jennie Nelson, who was born in Wood County, O., a daughter of Calvin and Mary Ellen (Ragan) Nelson. Calvin Nelson was born in Hancock County, O., a son of Thomas Nelson, one of the early pioneers, who lived in Cass Township. The mother of Mrs. Conine died when she was but two years old and the father when she was eight years older. Four children were left orphans and for a time she was cared for by an aunt, but later was taken by a family of no relationship, with whom she lived until her marriage. Her own four children have had a happier fate, having been reared in a home of plenty and given every advantage within the power of loving and tender parents. To Mr. and Mrs. Conine three daughters and one son have been born, namely: Ivy Estella, who is the wife of Rollo Sheidler and they have one son, Lloyd Raymond; Trudy, who is the wife of William Ireland, and they have one daughter, Helen Conine; Josiah Ray, and Bessie A.

REV. CHARLES I. BROWN, D. D., who since 1904 has been president of Findlay College, an institution of learning of which the citizens of Findlay, Hancock County, O., are



REV. CHARLES I. BROWN, D. D.

justly proud, is a man who has already done much to advance the educational and material interests of the college. He was born at Woodbury, Bedford County, Pa., December 11, 1861, and is one of a family of eleven children born to his parents, Abraham S. and Mary (Keifer) Brown.

Dr. Brown was reared on his father's farm, his early environment being that of the average country boy, and his opportunities for development the best that could be afforded in a home of industry, thrift and Christian government, where there were many brothers and sisters. He was mentally gifted and his ambition spurred him on to secure a collegiate education, and in 1888 he was graduated from Dickinson Seminary, at Williamsport, Pa. Having made his choice of a profession, he then entered into the ministry of the Church of God, in which he proved acceptable, and served different charges for sixteen years. He has been a delegate to the General Eldership on five different occasions, and has served on important boards, such as the Board of Missions and Board of Publication. He was assistant editor of the Church Advocate from 1899 to 1904, and he represents the Churches of God in the United Society of Christian Endeavor as a trustee. He is, in fact, probably as well known as any man in the Churches of God today.

In 1904 Dr. Brown was called to Findlay to become the recognized head of Findlay College, an educational institution which had been founded here in 1882 by the religious body with which he has been identified since early manhood. The history of this college is one of great interest, and is deserving of more extended mention than we can here give it, for it is a record of earnest effort and personal sacrifice by good and pious people, many of whom have now passed away, leaving this as a great and lasting memorial of their useful lives. Since Dr. Brown has taken charge of the institution a most encouraging period of prosperity has set in, and with each year the future grows brighter. Under his presidency the courses have been greatly strengthened, the student body increased and the finances built up. The college has been cleared of debt, over $10,000 has been expended in improvements on the property. Two new properties have been added —the "Carrothers' Home" for the president and the "Henderson Home" for dormitory purposes. Aside from the regular income of the college, President Brown has collected over $12,000 for running expenses and the Endowment Fund has been increased over $50,000. It is thus apparent that Dr. Brown is a man well fitted for his present responsibilities, and he enjoys the respect, confidence, and esteem, not only of the college trustees, but of the citizens of Findlay generally who are interested in the promotion of their higher education.

Dr. Brown was married at Woodbury, Pa., to Miss Susie Hoffman, a daughter of Christian Hoffman, and they have had three children, Ruth, Harry, and Frances. The death of Mrs. Brown occurred September 9, 1909. The family residence is at No. 1113 N. Main Street, Findlay.

MORRIS A. DARBYSHIRE, M. D., who has been engaged in the practice of medicine and surgery at McComb, O., since 1895 and is identified with the various interests of the place as becomes an earnest and public spirited citizen, was born in Sugar Creek Township, Putnam County, O., May

19, 1863, and is a son of Jesse C. and Lydia A. (Pierce) Darbyshire.

Jesse C. Darbyshire was born December 5, 1817, in Fayette County, Pa., and died in Putnam County, O., August 14, 1894. His father, Thomas Darbyshire, was born in Ireland, of English parentage, and came to America and died in Clinton County, O. Jesse C. Darbyshire was a farmer. He was a boy when his parents came from Pennsylvania to Guernsey County, O., and from there to Clinton County, and he grew to manhood in the latter, married there May 22, 1844, and moved into Putnam County in 1845. He was a man of character and local importance to some degree but was never willing to accept office although he ever discharged the duties of citizenship, voting first with the Whig party and later with the Republicans. He was a member and liberal supporter of the Christian church. He married Lydia A. Pierce, who survives and is a resident of Columbus Grove. She was born in Logan County, O., December 2, 1825, and is a daughter of James and Margaret Pierce who moved in her girlhood from Logan to Clinton County. There were nine children born to Jesse C. Darbyshire and wife, all of whom survive with one exception. The family record stands as follows: Mary M., born May 5, 1845, is the wife of Jacob Deffenbaugh, of Columbus Grove. James T., born September 17, 1847, is a resident of California, where he is engaged in growing fruit. John W., born May 13, 1850, resides at Deadwood, S. D. Benjamin M., born November 23, 1852, lives near Rimer, in Putnam Conuty, O. David D., born March 20, 1855, is in business at Bluffton, Ind. Harvey N., born August 20, 1857, died August 25, 1860. Eliza J. and Samuel J. are twins, born September 28, 1860. The former is the wife of Albert C. Wood, of Rimer, O., and the latter is a practicing physician at Lima, O. Morris A. is the youngest of the family.

Morris A. Darbyshire attended the public schools until qualified to become a teacher and for eight years he alternated teaching school and attending the universities at Lebanon and Ada, O., and received the degree of B. S. from the latter institution. He turned his attention to the study of medicine, at Fort Wayne, Ind., in the office of his brother, and after due preparation entered Starling Medical College of Columbus, O., and on March 6, 1890, was graduated from that institution with honorable mention for scholarship. After practicing for a short time at Gilboa, in Putnam County, he established himself at Ottawa, but in 1895 he came to McComb and has made this place his permanent home. He has built up a large practice and the care of it occupies his time almost exclusively. He is a member of the Hancock County Medical Society, the Northwestern Ohio District, the Ohio State and the American Medical Associations.

Dr. Darbyshire was married February 1, 1893, to Miss Mary M. Matthias, a daughter of Dr. and Mrs. A. C. Matthias, of McComb, O., and they have three children: Hobart M., who was born at Gilboa, October 29, 1895; Miriam G., who was born at McComb, May 3, 1900; and Pauline L., who was born March 15, 1908. Mrs. Darbyshire was educated in the public schools of Gilboa and at Findlay College and is a talented musician.

Dr. Darbyshire is an active Odd Fellow, having represented the 18th District in the Grand Lodge of Ohio from 1902 to 1906. He is a member of McComb Lodge No. 354, Ashdor Encampment No. 195, and Pleasant Rebekah Lodge No. 375, I. O. O. F.

He is also identified with Findlay Lodge No. 227, F. & A. M., Findlay Chapter No. 58 R. A. M., Findlay Council No. 50, R. and S. M., and McComb Court, No. 103, Tribe of Ben Hur. Dr. and Mrs. Darbyshire and son Hobart are members of the Church of Christ at McComb.

SOLOMON SNIDER, a substantial citizen of Big Lick Township, Hancock County, O., who owns 182 acres of valuable farm land situated in Sections 6 and 7, on both sides of the Tiffin turnpike road, about eight miles east of Findlay, was born in the old log house on his father's farm in Findlay Township, Hancock County, March 8, 1839. His parents were Samuel and Catherine (Spangler) Snider.

Samuel Snider was born in 1811, in Perry County, O., and moved from there to Fairfield County, where he married and then came to Hancock County and entered 160 acres of land in what was then Findlay but is now Marion Township. He erected a primitive dwelling, a shanty of poles, which sufficed for a time, and then began the clearing of his land. He became a man of standing in his neighborhood and received, as he deserved, the consideration of his fellow men. He died about the time he reached his seventy-third year and his wife, born in 1812, did not long survive him. They had nine children born to them, namely: Isabella, Louisa, Solomon, Mary, William, Emanuel, Rebecca, Emma and George, and all survive except the three eldest daughters.

Solomon Snider grew to manhood on the home farm and attended the old log schoolhouse sessions when opportunity offered. In 1862 he enlisted for service in the Civil War, entering Co. G, 118th O. Vol. Inf., and during his service of four months was stationed in Kentucky. He is identified with the G. A. R. Post at Findlay. Mr Snider has always carried on general farming and in late years has shared his responsibilities with his son, Edgar, who is now the practical manager The family home is a handsome brick residence set well back on the south side of the highway to Tiffin. Its surroundings are particularly attractive, the shade trees, shrubbery and choice flowers presenting a beautiful picture and indicating refinement and taste.

On March 27, 1860, Mr. Snider was married to Miss Ruth Davis, a daughter of Daniel and Jane Davis, and they have had five children: Lewis, who married Rose Helm, lives in Chicago; Lucetta, who is the wife of A. Russell, of Big Lick Township and they have four children—Floyd, Ethel, Arnot and Ruth; Emmett, who resides in Marion Township, married Martha Adams and they have four children—Otto, Frank, Inez and Dorothy; Edgar, who married Jennie Wisley and they have four children—Chauncy, Glenn, Kenneth and Clifford; and Olive. In politics, Mr. Snider is a Republican, one from conviction, never having any political aspirations or permitting his name to be put forward for office.

LEMUEL McMANNESS, one of Findlay's stable business men, manager of the McManness Milling and Grain Company, has been identified with many important interests in both city and county and in 1884 was elected to the important office of sheriff. Mr. McMan-

ness was born in 1846, at Plainsfield, Cumberland County, Pa., a son of John and a grandson of James McManness, the latter of whom came from Ireland to America, in 1776.

Lemuel McManness was ten years old when his parents came to Ohio and settled at Findlay, where his father engaged in business as a cabinetmaker. In 1862, before his school days were over, he obtained a position as clerk in the sutler's department of the 57th O. Vol. Inf., and after efficient service in that position for more than a year, he was made clerk in the office of the quartermaster of the Army of the Cumberland, and one year later was given a clerical position in the office of the medical department. When the war closed, Mr. McManness returned to Findlay and for about five years engaged in clerking for Davis & Green, after which, in 1870, he embarked in the grocery business for himself, which he discontinued thirteen years later in order to enter into the manufacture of linseed oil. In 1889 he bought the Findlay flour mill and conducted it until it was destroyed by fire in November, 1891. In 1895 he resumed business in the grocery line which he continued until 1898, when he also became interested in a stone quarry, and in 1905 he became identified with the milling and grain business which bears his name and of which he is the capable manager. The McManness mill is equipped with improved machinery and its capacity is 150 barrels per day, employment being given to eight men. The special brands of flour manufactured are the "Bob White" and the "Calla Lily."

Mr. McManness' activity in commercial life has been supplemented by his interest in public matters, for he has been a public-spirited and progressive citizen. In 1870 he was elected city clerk, to which office he was reelected, and in 1884 he was elected sheriff of Hancock County. In his public life as well as in his private affairs, Mr. McManness has followed out practical, common sense ideas and his whole career has been one to reflect only credit upon him.

Mr. McManness was married in 1875, to Miss Amanda E. Kimmons, of Findlay, and they have two children. The family home is located at No. 838 South Main Street, Findlay. In his political affiliation he is a Republican and he has been an important factor in party councils.

CORY E. MOSIER, whose fine farm of 160 acres is situated in Section 9, Marion Township, Hancock County, O., lying on both sides of the Tiffin turnpike road, is one of the representative men of the township. He was born September 11, 1855, on the old home farm in Marion Township, and is a son of Henry M. and Catherine (Swab) Mosier.

Henry M. Mosier was born in Virginia and left his native state in early manhood and came to Fairfield County, O., moving from there to Hancock County after his first marriage. In his earlier years he worked as a carpenter and builder and some of the structures he erected are still standing in Hancock County, but later he devoted himself entirely to farming and stock raising. He died in March, 1881, at the age of seventy-one years. He was married the first time to Catherine Davis, who, at death, left three children: Samuel; Mary, who married George Wolfe; and John P. His second wife, Catherine Swab, was born in Pennsylvania and died in February, 1883, aged sixty-nine years. They had one son, Cory E. Henry M. Mosier was well known all through this section of Hancock County. When he came

to Marion Township the forest was so dense that he had to clear a place before he could build his round log house and barn. His son, John P. Mosier, resides on the old homestead.

Cory E. Mosier grew to manhood on the home farm and obtained a district school education. He early turned his attention to agricultural pursuits and farming and stock raising have mainly occupied him ever since. In 1885 he bought his present farm which was then known as the Amos Stover farm, and has improved and enriched it to a large degree.

On July 10, 1881, Mr. Mosier was married to Miss Mary E. Harold, who was born in Westmoreland County, Pa., a daughter of David and Margaret (Bear) Harold, both now deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Mosier have two sons: Clyde and Lester. The former is the home farmer. He married Ada Conway and they reside across the turnpike road from his father. Lester is a student in the Findlay Business College. Mr. Mosier and wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. In politics he is a Republican. He has served his township as a member of the school board and as supervisor.

McCONNELL B. SMITH, who was born in Hancock County, O., on a farm in Jackson Township adjoining the one on which he lives, on March 17, 1868, has devoted the larger part of his mature life to agricultural pursuits. His parents were Michael and Calista (Bare) Smith.

Michael Smith was born in Germany in 1839 and died in Jackson Township, Hancock County, December 24, 1870. He came to America when young, in company with his parents who landed at New York and came from there to Jackson Township where they entered eighty acres of government land. Michael Smith grew to manhood and married Calista Bare, who was born in Hancock County and died in Jackson Township, August 21, 1893. They were good people and were widely known.

McConnell B. Smith attended the schools in Jackson Township and went from there to Mt. Blanchard, where he remained a student for four years, during this tirme being under the instruction of such teachers as J. W. Corbin, W. O. Blosser and H. Walter Doty. In 1887 he received his certificate to teach school. Mr. Smith votes with the Democratic party. In 1888 he was elected township clerk and served in that office for ten years. He is an active citizen in all that concerns the public welfare and is a strong supporter of the public school system.

In 1889, Mr. Smith was married to Miss Orra E. Lee, a daughter of Noah and Mary Elizabeth (Sampson) Lee, and they have had seven children, namely: Harry, who is engaged in the oil business, resides at home; Dean, who attends the local school; Eugene, who died in infancy; and Marie, Mary, Richard M. and Dorothy Margaret, all live at home. Mr. Smith has been a member of the Methodist Episcopal church at Stoucktown for some eight years. He is identified with the Odd Fellows, belonging to Mt. Blanchard Lodge No. 344. He is one of the representative men of Jackson Township.

EDWARD S. LYON, one of the leading agriculturists and highly esteemed citizens of Allen Township, Hancock County, O., resides on a farm of eighty-five acres located in Section 1, on the Perrysburg turnpike road, and has been a resident of this county since 1855.

He was born June 4, 1847, in Crawford County, O., a son of Charles and Mary (Salmon) Lyon, the former of whom died when our subject was a lad of four years.

Edward S. Lyon came to Hancock County, O., in 1855, with his mother and step-father, Isaac Ausenbaugh, who settled on land in Allen Township. There he was reared and attended the school of District No. 1. He has always followed farming, and after his marriage lived for fifteen years on his step-father's farm in Allen Township, just one-half mile west of his present farm, to which he came on August 4, 1880, and which he had purchased a few years previously. He has made all of the improvements on the place, clearing the land and tiling it, and erecting a dwelling, a barn, and other necessary farm buildings. Here he has since carried on farming and stock raising, making a specialty of raising hogs.

On December 27, 1866, Mr. Lyon was joined in marriage with Anna Eliza Deming, who was born and reared in Portage Township, a daughter of Treat and Catherine (Lyons) Deming, and they have six children: James, Henry, Mary, Emma, Clystia and Elmer. James, a clerk in the postoffice at North Baltimore, married Myrtle Aiken and they have one son, Albert. Henry, who is engaged in farming in Portage Township, owns a tract of 115 acres, in Oklahoma, and also twenty-three acres in Portage Township, operates and resides on a tract of forty-two acres which his father owns in that township. He married Belle Perry, and they have two children, Ray and Grace. Mary is the wife of Jacob Smith, who resides near Saline, Mich., and they have three children: Viola, Elizabeth and Edward. Emma is the wife of Henry Brinkman, who owns a farm of seventy-five acres, one mile east of Van Buren, O., and they have three children: Floyd, Bertha, and Ruth Aneliza. Clystia is the wife of Bonda Spitler, who lives near Saline, Mich. They have two children, Kennith Edward and Dorothy. Elmer, who is a resident of North Baltimore, married Barbara Stutz, and has one daughter, Alma.

Mr. Lyon served two years as supervisor of Allen Township. He is a member and trustee of the United Brethren church.

W. W. SCOTHORN, justice of the peace and a general farmer, whose seventy acres of fine land lie in Section 10, Orange Township, Hancock County, was born in Eagle Township, this county, January 4, 1865. His parents were A. W. and Eliza (Walters) Scothorn.

A. W. Scothorn was born in Reed Township, Seneca County, O., and was reared on his father's farm and remained until about eighteen years old and then came to Hancock County and worked at various things here and in Indiana until his marriage in 1860. In 1868 he sold a farm he owned in Michigan and moved to Orange Township, Hancock County, where he became a man of prominence. When he came first to Hancock County he worked on his brother-in-law's farm for three years and then rented land for six years and then bought the farm in Orange Township on which his widow resides. He took much interest in public matters and was a zealous Democrat and by that party was frequently elected to office. He served as township trustee, as township clerk, and was elected township treasurer but declined that office. When the local Grange, Patrons of Husbandry, was established he lent his influence to the movement

and served as its secretary. He was a member of the Baptist church. His death occurred in February, 1908, at the age of seventy-three years and his burial was in Bishop's Cemetery in Eagle Township. A. W. Scothorn was married October 14, 1860, to Eliza Walters, a daughter of Lower Walters, a native of Virginia, and they had three children: Florence R., who married George Rote, who is a resident of Van Wert, O.; W. W.; and H. H., who resides at Findlay.

W. W. Scothorn received his primary education in the public schools of Orange Township and then attended Findlay College. Later he alternated teaching school in Orange Township and attending the Ada Normal School, but after marriage came to his present farm which he took possession of before any of the buildings had been erected except the residence. All other improvements he has made and they are of a very substantial character. He carries on farming along general lines which includes the raising of stock, particularly hogs and he has many head of these to market every year. In politics he is a Democrat and has served acceptably in township offices, one year as assessor and for the past nine years he has been a justice of the peace.

In April, 1899, Mr. Scothorn was married to Miss Flora Pochert, a daughter of William Pochert, of Huron County, Mich., and they have three children: William A., John Park and Walter Warren, Jr. The two older sons are bright, manly boys, devoted to their school books.

JEROME M. MARTIN, senior member of the firm of Martin & Weinland, hardware merchants at McComb, O., was born in Pickaway County, O., April 8, 1854, and is a son of John L. and Elizabeth (Burnley) Martin.

John L. Martin was born in Virginia, where his father died. He came to Pickaway County, O., when young and spent his subsequent life there, dying in 1861. He was a merchant at what was then called Genoa, but is now known as Commercial Point. His first marriage was to Elizabeth Burnley, who was also born in Virginia, a daughter of James Burnley by whom she was brought to Ohio when young. Of this marriage, Jerome M. Martin is the only survivor, two other sons, Theodore and Howard, being deceased. His second wife was Jane Fulcher, who is also deceased. They had two sons and one daughter: John L., who is a merchant at Commercial Point; Thomas J., who is an instructor in the civil engineering department of the Ohio Normal University at Ada; and Henrietta, who is the wife of William Wright of Grove City, Franklin County, O.

Jerome M. Martin was reared on a farm near Commercial Point, O., where he remained until he was twenty-one years of age, attending school irregularly in the meanwhile. He then went to Napoleon, O., where he engaged in carpenter work and became a contractor and continued there until 1888 when he came to McComb. Here he embarked in the hardware business in partnership with Mr. Weinland, their first location being in an indifferent frame building which soon proved entirely inadequate to the growing demands of their trade, and in 1895 Mr. Martin and Mr. Weinland erected the present commodious structure.

The firm carries a large stock in all lines of hardware and does a prosperous business. Mr. Martin individually has a number of additional business interests. He is vice-president of the People's Bank at McComb, and is secretary and treasurer of the Bohemian Pottery Company, at Zanesville, O.

In 1878, Mr. Martin was married to Miss Clara J. Weaver, of Napoleon, O., a daughter of Philip and Caroline Weaver, and seven children were born to them, namely: Ray L., who is commercial salesman for a large hardware house, resides at Tiffin, O., and married Florence, daughter of Isaac Whetstone, of Findlay; Bessie, who died when aged but four months; Blanche, whose death occurred in 1906, was a graduate of the McComb High School and was the wife of Clyde Rockwell, of North Baltimore, O.; Charles E., who has resided in San Francisco some years, married Lillie Oke of that city; Boyd F., who was educated in the McComb High School and the Yocum Business College at Findlay, is assistant deputy in the office of the treasurer of Hancock County; Sue, who is a graduate of the McComb High School; and Helen, who is yet a student. Mr. Martin is a member of the lodge of F. & A. M., at Deshler, of the Odd Fellows at McComb and of the Elks at Findlay. In politics he is a Democrat.

JOHN C. TRITCH, M. D., one of Findlay's eminent physicians, with well appointed offices in the Gray and Patterson Block, at Findlay, O., was born in this city, September 25, 1857, and is a son of Parlee C. and Nancy (Shong) Tritch.

Parlee C. Tritch, who is an esteemed retired citizen of Findlay, for many years was prominent both in business and politics. He conducted a harnessmaking establishment for a long period and was an active and useful citizen of both city and county, serving the latter as sheriff from 1876 until 1880. His wife survived until 1909.

John C. Tritch was reared at Findlay, where he attended the grammar schools and the High School, graduating from the latter in the class of 1874. During the succeeding winter he taught a country school and then began the study of medicine under the late Dr. W. M. Detwiler, and from his instruction entered the Homeopathic Medical College at Cleveland, O., being graduated there in 1878. His field of labor has been Findlay and environs but his professional skill has extended his reputation far beyond this environment. He has been a delegate to the Ohio State Medical Society, is ex-president of the Hancock County Medical Society and is also a member of the American Medical Association and a valued contributor to medical literature. Aside from his profession he has the interests of a well read, cultivated man. For some years he has been making a collection of Indian relics together with curiosities from all parts of the world and the greater number of these he has generously donated to the Findlay High School.

Dr. Tritch married Miss Lydia Wolf, a daughter of Levi Wolf, who was a soldier in the Civil War and one of its martyrs, dying at Cincinnati while on his way home. Dr. and Mrs. Tritch have two daughters: Mary Gail and Martha Agnes. The former is a graduate of the Findlay High School and of Smith College, and is teacher of Latin in the former institution. The younger daughter is a student in the sophomore year in the Findlay High School. Dr. Tritch is affiliated fraternally

JOHN C. TRITCH, M. D.

with the Masons, the Elks and the Odd Fellows.

NORMAN L. MacLACHLAN, M. D., was born in East Williams, Middlesex County, Ontario, Canada, November 26, 1854. His parents were Alexander and Mary (Black) MacLachlan, and he is a grandson of Donald MacLachlan, of Argyleshire, Scotland. Donald married Agnes McFarlane, and Alexander was their eighth child.

Alexander MacLachlan was born in Ardrishaig, Argyleshire, June 9, 1809. In 1840 he emigrated to Canada, settling in East Williams, Ontario, where he engaged in farming until May, 1861, when he removed to Argyle, Sanilac County, Michigan, where he died in 1879. His wife had died five years before. By his wife Mary, who was a daughter of John Black, a native of Glasgow, Scotland, and a gauger by occupation, he had a family of ten children, all of whom are living except the youngest, who died in childhood.

Norman L. MacLachlan, a child of six years when his parents removed to Argyle, Michigan, remained there up to the age of twenty, making the best of the educational opportunities to be had in a comparatively undeveloped region. At the early age of fourteen he worked in the lumber camps in winter and attended school and worked on the farm in summer.

Dr. MacLachlan began his medical studies in 1874, under the direction of Dr. William H. Greene, at Cass City, Michigan, in whose office he remained a year. He then entered the medical department of the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, Michigan, from which he was graduated March 27, 1878. The practice of his profession was begun at Cass City, and he remained there eleven years. He was mayor of Cass City in 1883, and was re-elected in 1884.

A few years later—in 1889—Dr. MacLachlan came to Findlay where he has since been engaged in practice. He was surgeon to the Findlay City Hospital for several years and for many years has been surgeon to the C. H. & D. and the F. Ft. W. & W. Railroad companies. In October, 1897, President McKinley appointed him a member of the Board of U. S. Pension Examining Surgeons, and he was subsequently elected secretary of the Board. He is a member of the American Medical Association, Northwestern Ohio Medical Association, Ohio State Medical Society, and the Hancock County Medical Society, having served both as president and vice-president of the last named.

Politically Dr. MacLachlan is a staunch Republican and has taken an active part in the affairs of the city, county and state. He has never been an office seeker, but ever anxious and willing to aid his party and friends, and advance their interests, and more than one can testify to his ability as a political manager. From 1892 until 1898 he was a member of the City Council, serving as president for two years. He was a member of the Board of Education several terms. Has served as chairman of the Republican County Executive Committee, and is at present a member of the State Republican Executive Committee.

For many years Dr. MacLachlan, in addition to his practice, has been engaged in banking and manufacturing. He has been a director of the Commercial Bank and Sav-

ings Company since it was organized, and for several years he has been president of The Buckeye Traction Ditcher Company, The Findlay Publishing Company, The Findlay Sucker Rod Company of Findlay, O., and is a director in the Vanlue Banking Company of Vanlue, O.

He is a Mason and an Odd Fellow, having passed all the chairs in the latter order.

Dr. MacLachlan was married November 27, 1878, in Blenheim, Ontario, to Miss Emma Jackson, who died June 12, 1907. She was a daughter of John Jackson of Blenheim, Ontario. They have one child, Ethel May, who was married July 17, 1909, to Herman W. MacPhail, a banker of Raymond, Washington, where they reside.

SYLVESTER RHINEHAMMER, who owns 160 acres of valuable farm land, situated in Section 34, Marion Township, Hancock County, O., was born in Luzerne County, Pa., April 20, 1837, and is a son of Daniel and Ann (Syms) Rhinehammer.

Daniel Rhinehammer was born in Holland and he left his home on the Zuyder Zee after he reached manhood and after coming to America found farm work and married Ann Syms, in Luzerne County, Pa., and lived there until their fourth child, Sylvester, was three years old. They then came to Hancock County, O., buying a farm in Jackson Township, which they sold when they moved to Marion Township and bought a farm just east of the one on which their son Sylvester lives. The father died there but the mother had died previously while visiting at the home of her daughter, Amanda, in Michigan. They had the following children: Rachel, deceased, who was the wife of Elias Powell; Edward, who died while serving in the Civil War as a member of the 57th O. Vol. Inf.; Reuben, who is deceased; Slyvester; Nelson and Simon, both of whom were soldiers with their brother Edward, in the 57th O. Vol. Inf., and all died in the army; Amanda; Elmer; and several who died young.

In 1840, the parents of Sylvester Rhinehammer came to Hancock County and probably he was the most carefully protected piece of property as he was then only a babe of three years. A one-horse wagon transported the family and their household goods and Mr. Rhinehammer easily recalls the round log house which was the family home. He had but meager school advantages as he soon had to help in the clearing and improving of the farm, the hardest kind of toil being necessary from every member of the family. He remained with his parents until he reached the age of twenty-one years, after which he worked around among the neighboring farmers for some fifteen years. At that time a salary of $12 per month and board was considered very satisfactory. He then decided to work for himself, prudently renting land at first and then purchasing and selling until he secured enough capital to invest where he desired. For many years he has engaged successfully in farming and raising stock and his son Benjamin is associated with him and in late years carries the most of the responsibility. He has made many improvements here, rebuilding almost entirely the brick residence of nine rooms and erecting barns and other farm buildings as needed.

In October, 1869, Mr. Rhinehammer was married to Miss Margaret J. Searfoss, a

daughter of Jacob and Jane (Powell) Searfoss. She was born in Marion Township, Hancock County, O., her parents having come early from Pennsylvania. To Mr. and Mrs. Rhinehammer four children were born, namely: John W., who is deceased; Benjamin, who operates the home farm, was born here May 23, 1873; Julius, who died at the age of nineteen years; and one that died an infant. Mr. Rhinehammer and son are Democrats. He has never accepted any office except that of school director. Both father and son are among the most reliable and respected men of this section.

JOSEPH BENSON CLAYTON, who is better known as "Uncle Bens," is one of the most prominent and widely known citizens of Hancock County, O., and resides in the village of Van Buren, in Allen Township. He was born December 30, 1833, at Sharpsburg, Washington County, Md., and is a son of Joseph and Louisa (Showman) Clayton, and a grandson of Henry Clayton who fought in the War of the Revolution. Joseph Clayton, an uncle of our subject, enlisted as a drummer boy in the War of 1812, also fought in the Mexican War, and three brothers of our subject served in the Civil War. Joseph Clayton, father of Joseph B. Clayton, was born and reared in Sharpsburg, Md., and was exceptionally well educated, being a fine mathematician, as well as a surveyor, civil engineer and school teacher. In about 1836 or 1837, with his family he removed from Maryland to Rushville, O., and there he and wife spent the remainder of their lives.

Joseph Benson Clayton spent his boyhood days in Rushville, O., and at the age of fifteen years began learning the plasterer's trade, which he followed successfully for forty-six years. When a young man he came to Van Buren, O., and for fifty-four years, with the exception of five years spent in Fairfield County, has been a resident of this village. In 1856, when he came to Van Buren, Mr. Clayton was not only without money but in debt, but began working at his trade as a plasterer, and in connection with his trade, dealt largely in real estate, buying and selling farm lands, and often acted as advisor for others, who were transacting real estate deals, and proved himself a man of splendid business judgment. During his early life Mr. Clayton traveled extensively, and has visited nearly every state in the union east of the Mississippi, and also Texas. He is a very interesting and entertaining conversationalist, and is held in high esteem by a large circle of friends and acquaintances throughout the county. In 1903, Mr. Clayton sold his farm of 100 acres, which was located in the northwestern part of Allen Township, and although he has owned various farms has never lived on any of them.

Mr. Clayton was married shortly after coming to Hancock County, to Caroline Myers, who is a daughter of Jonathan Myers, formerly of Bloomdale, Wood County, O. Four children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Clayton: Willis Melville, who graduated in the classical course at the Ohio Wesleyan University, teaches the higher branches in the High School at Santa Anna, Calif.; Louisa, who is the wife of James V. Bushong, who operates a farm of 120 acres in Van Buren Township; Charlotte, who manages the home for her parents since her mother suffered a stroke of paralysis in 1907; and Georgiana, who died aged 20 years. Mr. Clayton affiliates with the I. O. O. F. and his religious connection is with

the M. E. church, although he has always been a liberal supporter of churches of all denominations.

HON. SILAS E. HURIN, presiding judge of the Circuit Court of the Third Judicial Circuit of Ohio, was born December 22, 1858, at Cincinnati, O. He attended the public schools of Cincinnati and Wyoming, O., and was graduated from Princeton in 1882. After Princeton he taught one year in Morris Academy, at Morristown, New Jersey. In 1885 he was graduated from the Cincinnati Law School and was admitted to the bar. He came to Findlay, O., in 1887. In November, 1904, he was elected judge of the Circuit Court and has served on the Circuit Court since February 9, 1905.

H. MOLDER & SONS, general turnpike contractors, and owners of 197 acres of valuable land in Section 24, Orange Township, Hancock County, O., are representative citizens of this part of the county. H. Molder was born in Lorain County, O., August 15, 1845, and obtained his schooling there. After his marriage he settled on his present farm in Orange Township, Hancock County, where he operated a saw-mill for a number of years.

In 1902, Mr. Molder went into turnpike road contracting and did his first work in this line in Orange Township. He showed his business capacity and good judgment by providing himself with all the equipments necessary to do satisfactory work in this line, including a stone crusher and roller and all the particular tools required in this class of work. He has done a large amount of turnpike contracting over the county, working under the firm name of H. Molder & Sons, and has the well-won reputation of being the most competent man in his line of work in the county. He owns one team and gives employment to fifteen men, overseeing all the work himself. He also carries on extensive farming operations.

Mr. Molder married Miss Louisa Kramer, a daughter of Daniel Kramer, of Union Township, Hancock County, and they have five children: Melvin, Allen, Frank, Augusta and Inez. Two of the sons, Allen and Frank, are in partnership with their father and all are enterprising and successful business men. Mr. Molder and sons are Democrats.

E. LESLIE E. MUMMA, attorney at law at McComb, O., is a prominent member of the Hancock County bar and for forty years has been a political factor in the Republican party in the State of Ohio. He was born in Monroe Township, Allen County, O., April 8, 1854, and is a son of Peter K. and Susan (Montz) Mumma.

Peter K. Mumma was born in Lancaster County, Pa., July 19, 1819, and was of Swiss and French ancestry. His father, Peter Mumma, came to America from Alsace Lorraine, then a French province, following the close of the War of 1812. He lived in Lancaster and Susquehanna Counties, in Pennsylvania, and owned a distillery on the Susquehanna River. He died in 1839. His widow, also a native of France, died in Lancaster County, Pa., in 1866. They had the following children: John, Peter K., Eliza, David R., Joseph H., and Mary A. John Mumma was an engineer on the first line of the Pennsylvania Railroad. Eliza married David Castle, of Lancaster County. David R. Mumma became a man of much prominence in Pennsylvania and was sent to the State Senate from

Dauphin County and gave hearty support to the old political war-horse, Hon. Simon Cameron. He died at Harrisburg. Joseph H. Mumma came to Ohio in 1860 and lived in Hancock County during the remainder of his life until prior to his death, in 1908, which occurred at Payne, in Paulding County. He was a miller by trade. Mary A., the sixth member of the family and the only survivor, resides on a farm near Payne, O., and is now in her seventy-seventh year. She married Samuel Wiltsie, who was born in 1827, in Otsego County, N. Y. He was a soldier in the Mexican War, serving under the late Gen. Joseph E. Johnson, who later was an officer in the Confederate army during the War of the Rebellion. He has been a resident of Paulding County since 1862 and is now in his eighty-third year.

Peter K. Mumma was not a collegian but he was a scholarly and educated man, reading Latin, Greek and French, also German and being particularly proficient in his ancestral tongue and easily conversed in the dialects of his land. He was a strong man both mentally and physically. He was one of the original Abolitionists and was associated in the anti-slavery movement with Joshua R. Giddings and Benjamin F. Wade and his home was one of the stations of the underground railroad, in the late fifties. This was one of the burning questions of the day at that time and the leaders in the abolition movement suffered in many ways as they promulgated their principles. In 1838 he was married in Lancaster County, Pa., and in 1840 came to Allen County, O., locating on Riley Creek, a mile and a half from Bluffton, where he built a log cabin. In 1859 he removed to Orange Township, in Hancock County, not far from Bluffton in another direction. The land he secured was covered with a heavy growth of oak and the forest was yet full of game and many Indians still remained in the neighborhood.

Peter K. Mumma was married in 1838 to Susan Montz, who was born in 1822, in Maryland. Her father was Joshua Montz, a native of France and an emigrant to Maryland. After he died his widow married Daniel Odenwelder, a Moravian, and they came to Allen County and settled on Riley Creek in 1832. He was a noted hunter and a typical pioneer and his wife was no less courageous and resourceful. He died in Jo Daviess County, Ill. After the death of Mr. Odenwelder, the grandmother of Mr. Mumma crossed the plains to California with an ox-team and lived for ten years at Sacramento City, Calif. In the meanwhile the Pacific Railroad had been constructed and after she was 100 years old she decided to return east, boarded a train eager for the new experience and safely reached Whitely County, Ind., where she died four years later. Her passing was peaceful, and she was found sitting in her easy chair, with her open Bible which she had been able to read without the use of glasses. In many ways she was a remarkable woman. In earlier years she lived in Ohio when her nearest neighbors were at Fort Findlay, sixteen miles distant and when she visited them, on horseback, she carried her gun with her and was entirely fearless. The cabin in which she lived in Allen County, stood until 1905 and was a place of pilgrimage for her grandchildren.

To Peter K. Mumma and wife the following children were born: William J., Susan O., Joseph M., Zachariah Taylor, E. Leslie E., Simon G., Isaac N., Martha L., Mary E. and Roy Edmund. William J. Mumma was a member of Co. B, 99th O. Vol. Inf., and served

through the Civil War and was wounded at Stone River, but later went with Sherman to the sea He married Mary H. Reeber, of Hancock County, later engaged in farming near Warsaw, Ind., where he died. Susan O. is the widow of James C. Bogart, who died at Bluffton, in 1905. Joseph M. follows the carpenter trade at Bluffton, O. He married Euphemia Hamilton, a daughter of Jonathan Hamilton, a pioneer of Hancock County. Zachariah Taylor, who is engaged in the mercantile business at Bluffton, O., married Amanda Hamilton. Simon G. Mumma has his home at Jamestown, N. D. He is traveling representative of the Rock Island Plow Company, their general agent and a fine business man. He is a 32nd degree Mason and a Shriner. He has been twice married. Isaac N. Mumma is a farmer and plasterer, residing in Auglaize County, O. He married Elizabeth Johnson of Hancock County. Martha L. is the wife of Joseph Bowen, of Warsaw, Ind. Mary E. died unmarried at Tecumseh, Nebr. Roy Edmund is engaged in the mercantile business in Paulding County, O. He married Bertha Miller. The father of the above family died July 7, 1897, at Bluffton, O., and the mother also passed away there. They were members of the Disciples church.

E. Leslie E. Mumma attended the public schools and after his High School course at Bluffton, entered Lebanon College and later was a student in the Ohio Northern University at Ada. In 1874 he became superintendent of public instruction in his home town and for a number of years made educational work his profession. For seven years he had charge of the schools of Vanlue, Hancock County, and for three years was at Benton Ridge. In association with Prof. Zellers he conducted a Normal School at Findlay. He read law with Judge Burgett, who became chief justice of the Supreme Court of Ohio. In December, 1882, Mr. Mumma was admitted to the bar by the Supreme Court and for twenty years he engaged in practice at Findlay, being subsequently admitted to practice in the United States Circuit and District Courts. In addition to attending to what has always been a heavy practice, Mr. Mumma has been active in political matters and by tongue and pen has worked effectively for his party, for forty years being a favorite campaign orator. He has been a resident of McComb, O., for the past seven years.

On October 22, 1876, Mr. Mumma was married to Miss Sarah A. Waltz, of Tuscarawas County, O., and they have four children: Morton C., Cliffe, Hiram Paul and Harlan Leslie. Morton C. Mumma was born March 8, 1878. He is a graduate of the Findlay High School and of the West Point Military Academy, in the class of 1900, where he gained honors in several lines. He at present is commandant of the State University of Iowa. He married a daughter of Alexander A. Zugsworth, of Findlay, and they have three children: Morton C., Jr., who was born in the city of Manila, P. I.; Albert Gerard, who was born at Findlay; and Martha, who was born in Iowa. Col. Mumma is a member of the staff of the governor of Iowa and is judge advocate for the Northwestern States. Cliffe Mumma is the wife of Capt. Holcomb, of the 10th U. S. Cav., who is commandant of the Ohio N. W. University at Ada. He is a graduate of Orchard Lake Military Academy and of the Bay City High School, of Bay City, Mich. He served in the Spanish-American war and spent two years in the Philippine Islands and has traveled over a

large portion of the world. His father, Cole F. Holcomb was a hardware merchant. His mother was a graduate of Vassar College and her mother married Lord Hamersley, a son of the Lord Mayor of England and a member of the English Parliament. Capt. and Mrs. Holcomb have four children: Leslie Page, who was born at Fort Logan, Col., in 1901; Freeborn Page, who was born on the Island of Jolo, in the Philippine group; Cornelius Cole, who was born at Walla Walla, Wash.; and Jack, who was born at McComb. Hiram Paul Mumma was born at Vanlue, O., April 20, 1882, and is a graduate of the Findlay High School. He has been a resident of California for five years and holds a responsible position in the Riverside postoffice. He married Flora Bright, a daughter of J. C. Bright, of McComb, and they have one daughter, Corinne, who was born in her grandfather's home, five years ago. Harlan Leslie Mumma was born at Findlay, O., December 6, 1894. He is a student in the Northwestern University at Ada preparatory to entering West Point Military Academy.

Mr. Mumma has been a member of Mt. Blanchard Lodge, No. 519, F. & A. M., for thirty years, and Findlay Chapter, No. 58, R. A. M. Mrs. Mumma is a member of the Presbyterian church.

HERBERT V. BEARDSLEY, M. D., a thoroughly representative citizen of the city of Findlay, O., where he was born in 1859, occupies a prominent place in the medical profession but has never permitted its demands to entirely absorb him, having always given liberally of his time to further the higher social and civic aims of the community. The parents of Dr. Beardsley were Daniel Bailey and Jane (Summers) Beardsley, and his grandparents were Barney and Anna Beardsley.

Daniel Bailey Beardsley was one of Hancock County's able and influential men. His "History of Hancock County" is a valuable work and on account of its accuracy, together with its interesting reminiscences, gathered through a long and busy life-time, is found in many Hancock County libraries. He was born in Licking County, O., in 1832, and was brought to Hancock County when two years old by his parents. He taught school at Findlay in early manhood and then read law with a prominent law firm at Bellefontaine, O., and in 1856 was admitted to the bar. Among the many offices he held in city and county, was that of justice of the peace at Findlay. He served as a collector of internal revenue after the Civil War. He was identified with the Masons and other fraternal orders and took a very active part in politics. On May 22, 1856, he was married to Jane Summers and they had one son and four daughters. He died at Findlay, September 29, 1894.

Herbert V. Beardsley went from the public schools of Findlay to Oberlin College, where he remained through the freshman and sophomore years, and then took a course at Cornell College, at Ithaca, N. Y. He then turned all his energies in the direction of the study of medicine and was graduated from the Homeopathic College of Cleveland, in 1883. For sixteen months he practiced his profession at Ada, O., and then came back to his native city which has remained the chosen field of his efforts until the present. In his profession he has more than met success and in the leading medical

organizations of the country his name is held in esteem on account of his ability.

Dr. Beardsley was married in 1886, to Miss Harriet Farrell, who died in 1896, survived by four children: John D., Frances E., Ruth A. and Geraldine. In 1898, Dr. Beardsley was married for a second time, to Miss Laura B. Morehead, who died in 1903 survived by two children: Edith N. and Girard G. In 1906 Dr. Beardsley was married to Caroline Schulenberg, of St. Marys, O. The handsome family home is situated at No. 223 Center Street, Findlay.

For many years Dr. Beardsley has been an important factor in Hancock County politics and has many times served as a delegate to the State, Judicial and Congressional conventions of the Republican party. His political aspirations, however, have been along very moderate lines—the few offices he has been willing to accept being those in which he has recognized that he could best promote the progress of his city and the general welfare of the largest number. He is a member of and an official in a number of the fraternal and beneficiary orders of the country and is frequently sent as a representative to their annual councils.

WILLIAM WHITFIELD WYER, who owns 217 acres of fine farm land all situated in Hancock County, O., resides on a tract of 100 acres of this, located in Section 27, Marion Township, the other 117 acres being in Section 12, Amanda Township. He was born in Fairfield County, O., January 29, 1851, and is a son of Henry and Anna E. (Ashbaugh) Wyer.

Henry Wyer was born in New Jersey and was a son of John Wyer who brought his family to Fairfield County but three years later moved to Iowa, accompanied by the most of his descendants and all of those who moved to the West died there. Henry Wyer and wife had seven children: Peter, John, Abraham, William, Henry, Margaret and Mary Ann. Henry Wyer did not accompany the other members of the family to Iowa, remaining in Fairfield County, where he was married to Anna E. Ashbaugh. She was born there and was a daughter of Fred Ashbaugh, who was a well known early settler. In 1867, accompanied by his family, Henry Wyer came to Hancock County, previously selling his farm near Wapakoneta. With this money he bought a farm which was then situated in old Findlay Township, now Marion. This was the old Samuel Switzer farm of 160 acres, which had been partly cleared. Henry Wyer bought, at different times, some 1,000 acres and as he possessed excellent judgment, it was all desirable property. He subsequently divided it among his children. He had prospered through farming and stock raising, never speculating in his life. He was born in 1828 and died in Marion Township in June, 1904. His widow still survives and makes her home with her son, Sherman Wyer, in Marion Township. Of the ten children born to Henry and Anna E. Wyer, William W. was the eldest. The record of the others is as follows: Emeretta, who died young; John; Alice, who is the wife of George Snyder; Anna Mary, who is the wife of John Hall; Sherman; Laura, who is the wife of O. Foster; Calvin G., and two who died young.

William W. Wyer went to the country

COL. JAMES A. BOPE

schools when young but began to help his father as soon as his strength permitted and remained at home until he was twenty-eight years of age. He has made farming and stock raising his business and has been more than usually successful in promoting these industries. His home farm was formerly known as the old Perry Lee farm. Mr. Wyer has done practically all of the improving here, putting up all of the substantial buildings except the residence. It is well tiled and substantially fenced, this work also having been done by the present owner.

Mr. Wyer was married March 22, 1879, to Miss Susan E. Hagerman who was born in Pennsylvania and is a daughter of Mahlan and Catherine (Wideman) Hagerman. Four children were born to this union, namely: Jessie May, who died aged two years; Stella, who is the wife of Clarence Knight, who operates Mr. Wyer's Amanda Township farm, and they have two children —Arthur Earl and Hazel Irene; Mahlan Zell, who is his father's farmer, married Lottie Loy; and Alice Catherine, who is the wife of Roland D. Foreman, of Eagle Township, and they have one child, Evelyn Ellen. Mr. Wyer and family are members of the United Brethren church. In politics he is a Republican but is no office seeker.

COL. JAMES A. BOPE, for many years was a representative member of the Hancock County bar, eminent in all lines of practice but especially so in railroad and corporation law. His military title was not one of mere compliment, but was valiantly won on the field of battle during his prolonged term of service in the Civil War. Colonel Bope was born at Winchester, Adams County, Ohio, November 30, 1832, and died at Findlay, October 25, 1908.

In 1838 the parents of our subject moved to Lancaster, Ohio, which place remained his home until 1859, when he settled permanently at Findlay. In 1857 he was admitted to the bar and immediately entered into practice, his ability in his chosen profession meeting with instant recognition. In 1862, however, notwithstanding the bright professional future that was then practically assured to him, he put aside his personal ambition and offered his services to his country. Enlisting in Company D, 99th O. Vol. Inf., he was made captain, and served in this capacity until July, 1864, when he was appointed acting inspector-general in Col. P. T. Swaine's brigade. At the head of his command in every time of danger, Captain Bope was frequently wounded but never seriously until the battle of Atlanta, from which field he was sent home by the late General Schofield, who never expected him to survive his injuries. In this supposition the veteran soldier was mistaken, for the young officer, spurred on by ambition and love of country, after some months, rejoined his regiment, that was then operating in North Carolina. Commissioned a lieutenant-colonel, he was then placed in command of the 99th and 50th consolidated regiments of Ohio Volunteer Infantry and served as such until he was mustered out of the army, in July, 1865. He participated in some of the most important of that long line of battles that left a trail of mourning over both North and South, and that even yet, after the passage of more than forty-five peaceful years, arouse patriotic emotion when they are recalled; among them, Perryville, Chickamauga, Lookout Mountain, and Missionary Ridge.

To have performed a hero's part in such a mighty conflict might have sufficed to confer enough distinction upon a young man to last a lifetime, but Colonel Bope came home from the wars to win equal prominence in a profession he loved, and one for which he was eminently fitted—that of the law. In political preference he was a Republican but from his party he sought no honors, the only public position he ever accepted being that of prosecuting attorney of Hancock County, the duties of which office he was performing at the time of his enlistment in the army. He was not a general practitioner, having early eliminated criminal cases from his line of professional work. His mind was analytical, deliberate and cautious, making him a safe counselor, and thus he was of inestimable value to great corporations in his state, large financial institutions, and important combinations of both public and private capital. For a number of years he was attorney for some of the leading railroad companies of Ohio, and for some years also served the city council of Findlay in the same position. As a citizen he was honored and esteemed; as a man he was respected and beloved. At different times he had business interests aside from his profession, and at the time of his death he was a member of the directing board of the First National Bank of Findlay. His life forms an inseparable part of the history of the city in some of its most important phases of development.

In 1861 Colonel Bope was married to Miss Martha J. Meeks, a daughter of Rev. J. A. Meeks. Their son, Edward V. Bope, who is one of Findlay's prominent attorneys, retains his father's old office at No. 322½ Main Street. He is a graduate of Kenyon College, of the class of 1885, and of the University of Michigan, in 1887, in which year he was admitted to the bar. He married Miss Laila M. Ernest, a daughter of Jacob Ernest, of Fostoria, and they have one son, James A. They reside at No. 128 East Hardin Street.

FRANK ARCHER, one of Portage Township's most respected citizens and an honored veteran of the Civil War, in partnership with his two sons owns 140 acres of valuable land here, which is divided into three farms. Mr. Archer was born in Bloom Township, Wood County, O., March 1, 1841, and is a son of James and Nancy (Copus) Archer.

James Archer came to Wood County, O., from Ashland County and died there when his son Frank was four and one-half years old. His widow survived him for many years, her death taking place in 1876, at the home of a daughter, Mrs. William Wall, in Portage Township, Hancock County.

Frank Archer grew to manhood in Wood County and obtained his education there. When the first call came for troops to preserve the Union, in April, 1861, he enlisted in Co. G, 21st O. Vol. Inf., and served for three months and then returned home and occupied himself in recruiting until the fall of 1862, when he re-enlisted in the same company and regiment and served faithfully until January, 1864, when he was honorably discharged on account of disability. He was attached to the 14th Army Corps, the Army of the Cumberland, and he participated in a number of the great battles of the war, including Stone River and Chickamauga.

After his military service was over, Mr. Archer returned to Hancock County and in 1865 settled on his present farm. When

he took possession the land was yet in an uncleared condition and without improvements and it required years of hard work to transform it into the richly cultivated and productive fields of the present. Mr. Archer resides on one tract containing sixty acres, situated in Section 4, near District No. 5 schoolhouse; his son Forest occupies one farm adjacent to his own but situated in Section 3; while the third farm, also of forty acres, is occupied by his son Wallace and it lies in Section 9, all in Portage Township.

In 1874, Mr. Archer was married to Miss Cevnia Rader, who was born and reared near Van Buren, Hancock County, a daughter of David and Hannah Rader, and they have five children: Rhoda, who is the wife of William A. Black and they live in California and have two children—Merle and Harry; Wallace, who married Amy Lightfoot and they have two children—Agnes and Daniel Franklin; Forest, who married Emma McGee, and they have one daughter, Evalyn; Nellie, who married William Deter and they have two children—Thelma and Glenn; and Zella, who resides at home. Mr. and Mrs. Archer are members of the Brethren church.

ROSS WENTZ, who fills the responsible but very difficult position of superintendent of the Hancock County Poor Farm, is a native of Ohio and was born February 21, 1862, and is one of a family of thirteen children born to his parents who were Jacob C. and Jane (Michaels) Wentz, the former of whom died in 1891.

Ross Wentz was reared on his father's farm and obtained his education in the public schools. He continued to engage in agricultural pursuits until he was appointed to his present office, in March, 1909. Mr. Wentz has the superintendence of over 228 acres of land and under his methods and excellent management, this land goes far in providing for the support and maintenance of the sixty-seven public charges. His administration of the affairs of the farm has proved very satisfactory to the county commissioners.

On July 8, 1888, Mr. Wentz was married to Miss Carrie N. Bell, a daughter of James Bell, of Hancock County, and they have two children, Carl and Bertie P. Mr. and Mrs. Wentz are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. He is identified with the Odd Fellows and with the Democratic party.

WILLIAM KRICHBAUM, who resides in Setcion 7, Van Buren Township, Hancock County, O., on his valuable farm of 200 acres, is one of the representative agriculturists of this part of the county. He was born in Van Buren Township, October 15, 1870, and is a son of Peter and Catherine (Zearbaugh) Krichbaum. They were born in Germany and both came to Van Buren Township, where they married and still reside, with their son.

William Krichbaum was educated in a German school in Van Buren Township, after which he worked at farming. His father had taken up this land from the Government when he was a young man and owned 280 acres. For many years the father carried on farming and stock raising and his son continues these industries with a large amount of success. The buildings

were all put up by the father. The land is in good condition and all but forty-five acres is well drained.

On January 9, 1907, Mr. Krichbaum was married to Miss Matilda Glick, a daughter of John and Mary (Marquart) Glick, and they have one little daughter, Clara Dora. Mr. Krichbaum, like his father, is a Democrat and has served as school director and once as supervisor. The family belongs to the German Lutheran church at Jenera, O.

JOHN W. GIBSON, who has been a resident of West Independence, O., since 1865, where he now lives retired, for many years was an active business man in Big Lick Township and other sections. He was born in Stark County, O., in 1837, a son of James and Sarah (Bowers) Gibson.

James Gibson was born in Pennsylvania in 1815 and died in Hancock County, O., in 1900. He married Sarah Bowers, who was born in Pennsylvania in 1799 and died in 1868. They had five children: John W., B. F., Mrs. Nancy Burk, Isaac and James Henry. James Gibson came to Hancock County and on May 2, 1839, took up government land in Section 36, Big Lick Township, which remained the family home.

John W. Gibson was two years old when he was brought to Big Lick Township and he grew up on the home farm and then learned the carpenter trade. He attended the school session held in the first log schoolhouse ever built in this township, this being in 1843. Mr. Gibson worked as a carpenter, later spent several years railroading and then operated a saw mill for a long time. In 1865 he came to West Independence and started the mill which is still operated by his son. In later years Mr. Gibson was interested in the threshing business and for some years operated his machine through the county. His different activities have made him well known to many people and in all sections of the county he has friends.

In 1860, Mr. Gibson was married to Miss Susan Bolander, of Putnam County, O., a daughter of Henry Bolander, and seven children were born to them, namely: John Fremont; David P., who conducts a store at West Independence; Emma, who married John Wynkoop, of West Alexander; Levi Wesley, who is proprietor of a clothing store at Fostoria, for a number of years was postmaster at West Independence; William, who operates the saw mill started by his father; and Milton E., who is a minister in the United Brethren church at Columbus Grove. Mr. Gibson has eleven grandchildren, as follows: Alberta, daughter of John Fremont; Clara and Oland, children of David P.; Floyd, Ralph, Fay and Allen, children of Emma; Reba, who is a daughter of William; and Lowell, Helen and Emerson, children of Milton E. They are all bright and intelligent and Mr. Gibson has great reason to take pride in his descendants. The family belongs to the United Brethren church at West Independence. In politics, Mr. Gibson is a Republican. He served acceptably for three years in the office of justice of the peace and for one year as constable. He is identified with both the Masons and Odd Fellows at West Independence.

RUFUS E. TAYLOR, capitalist and well known citizen of Findlay, where he owns a beautiful home at No. 207 Center Street,

formerly and for many years, was closely identified with the oil interests of both Ohio and Pennsylvania. He was born June 6, 1859, in Geauga County, O. When thirteen years of age he left home and joined his older brother, E. C. Taylor, who was then conducting a store at Petrolia, in the center of the Pennsylvania oil fields.

That region, at that time, was a poor place for a lad of tender years and his brother soon sent him back to Ohio. To prove that he could be self-supporting, he worked for seven months on a farm in Lake County and then returned to Petrolia, where, when fifteen years of age he was earning a salary large enough to turn the head of any youth. When he left Petrolia a second time, his money had all been lost in oil speculation and he spent the next year hard at work in Connecticut. In the course of time the homing instinct took him back to Ohio, where he married and continued to reside for eighteen months and then spent six months in the oil business in Allegheny County, N. Y. In 1886, Mr. Taylor came to Findlay and with his experience in oil, was qualified as a desirable partner in oil enterprises, and shortly afterward became associated in this relation with H. A. Watts and E. C. Taylor. They formed a firm for the drilling of oil wells by contract and he continued with these partners until 1897, disposing of his interests after ten years of profitable work. During the following year Mr. Taylor enjoyed a period of travel and after he returned to Findlay was interested for several years in a local enterprise, from which he released himself in 1902. He is one of the city's capitalists, a state brought about through his own efforts, with no advantages in early life, either educational or social. He is a stockholder in the Commercial Banking & Savings Company of this city.

In 1880, Mr. Taylor was married to Miss Ella L. Leland, a daughter of William L. Leland. Politically he is a Republican and fraternally he is a 32nd degree Mason, an Odd Fellows, Elk and Knight of Pythias. Since possessed of capital, Mr. Taylor has been a generous citizen of Findlay and has been actively interested in her welfare, for one year serving very efficiently on the board of city improvements.

HON. CHARLES BRIGHT, a former member of the Ohio State Legislature, a veteran of the Civil War and the owner of 353 acres of valuable farm land in Section 16, Marion Township, Hancock County, O., belongs to one of the old pioneer families of Fairfield County. He was born in the log house that stood on his father's farm at that time, in Fairfield County, O., December 28, 1835. His parents were David and Leah (Arnold) Bright.

David Bright was born also in Fairfield County and was a son of David Bright, who was born in old Berks County, Pa., of German parents, who lived near Reading. Grandfather David Bright moved to Ohio in 1800, the land having been entered previous to that time. On that land David Bright the second grew to manhood, doing a large share of the clearing and developing. He was the second born in a family of five children, the others being: John, Mary, Sarah and Susan. He was twice married, first to Leah Arnold, who died in 1855, and his second wife was Susan Jessell, who sur-

vived him, his death occurring in 1889, when he was seventy-seven years of age. To his first union the following children were born: Charles; Samuel, who is deceased; Emily Jane, deceased, who was the wife of Adam Fisher, also deceased; James, who is deceased; Julia Ann, who is the wife of William Spangler; and two children who died in infancy. To the second union two sons were born: David L. and John. The latter still lives on the old homestead.

Charles Bright grew to manhood in Fairfield County and attended the district schools. In 1861 he enlisted for service in the Civil War, entering Co. F, 17th O. Vol. Inf., and remained in the army for three years and six weeks, at that time receiving his honorable discharge. He was a brave and ready soldier and gained promotion, bearing the rank of sergeant at the close of his service. He participated in many decisive battles of the great struggle, among these being: Corinth, Wild Cat Mountain, Hoover's Gap, Buzzard's Roost, Jonesboro and Chickamauga, at times being in the very center of danger but escaped injury, the nearest to it being when he discovered that two bullets at the battle of Chickamauga had been stopped in their probably otherwise fatal errand, by his knapsack.

Mr. Bright returned then to Fairfield County and was married there on September 25, 1866, to Miss Catherine A. Carnes. In the following spring they moved to Hancock County and he first bought 157 acres of his present farm from the David Tussing heirs and later added the rest of the land. In 1886 he completed the erection of his commodious and comfortable brick residence. Until he retired from active labor, he followed farming and stock raising and these industries are still carried on by his son, David R.

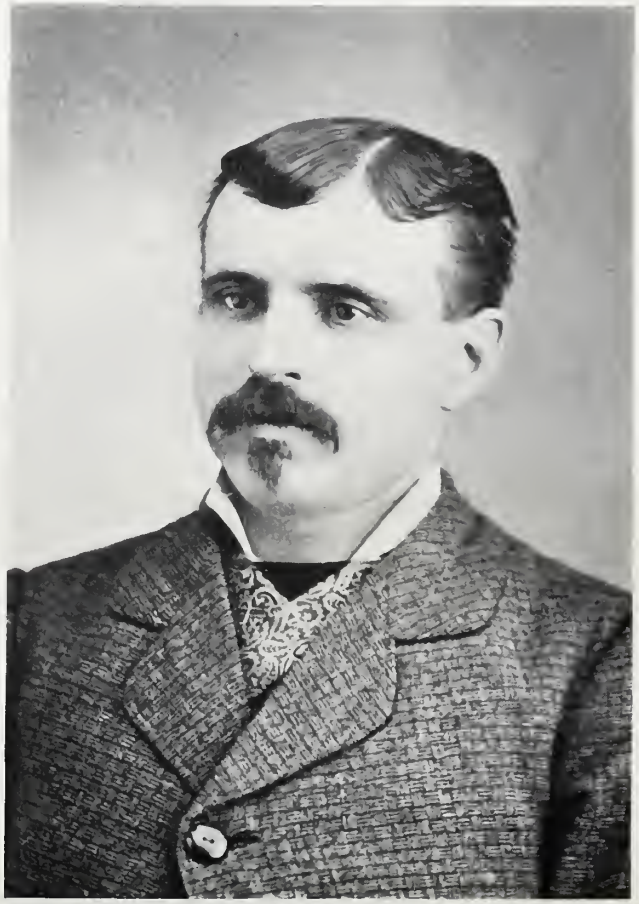
Three children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Bright: John C., who is in the oil business; David R., who manages the farm, married Chloe Morehead, and they have one child, Marilyn; and Effie E., who is the wife of C. M. Wisely, of Findlay, and they have four children: Evelyn, Catherine, Ruth and Dorothy.

Mr. Bright has long been prominently identified with the Republican party, and in 1893 he was elected to the Legislature and served most acceptably during one term in that body.

RICHARD B. DEMING, a representative farmer and stock raiser of Portage Township, Hancock County, O., owns 240 acres of valuable land, separated into two adjoining farms, one of 160 acres, in Section 10, on which he resides, and one of eighty acres, in Section 15, just south of the larger farm. He is a native of Portage Township, born on a farm one-half mile from his present one, January 12, 1850, and is a son of Treat Deming and wife, both of whom died on their farm in Portage Township.

Richard B. Deming was reared and attended school in Portage Township and has been engaged in farming ever since old enough to use farm implements. After marriage he lived for some years in Allen Township but has resided on his present place for the past twenty-five years. He purchased the other farm in 1908 from the Samuel Culp heirs. Mr. Deming operates but eighty acres of his land himself, having the re-

JOHN C. FOLK



SAMUEL S. FOLK

mainder rented out to good tenants. He has made all the substantial improvements and the whole extent of his property would command a very high price if put upon the market, and its value increases each year.

Mr. Deming married Miss Amelia Ausenbaugh, a daughter of Isaac and Mary (Salmon) (Lyon) Ausenbaugh. The father of Mrs. Deming died in April, 1857, when she was a child. Her mother survived until 1904. Mr. and Mrs. Deming have two children: Daisy and Mary Adeline. Daisy married George Strouse and they have three children: Ethel, Ruth and Willard. Mr. Deming takes no very active part in politics but he has always been interested in educational matters and has served seven years as a member of the Portage Township School Board.

GEORGE PELTON JONES, cashier of the First National Bank of Findlay, O., is a man of exceeding prominence both in business and political life in this section of Ohio. He was born at Findlay, May 13, 1866, and is the only son of the late Elijah Pelton and Mellie (Johnson) Jones, the latter of whom survives.

George Pelton Jones grew to manhood in a cultured, refined home and its influences have been invaluable to him. He was carefully educated and after graduating from Williams College, in 1884, took a business course in a commercial college in New York and then returned home ready to begin a course of business training that commenced at the bottom of the ladder, his father insisting that he should enter his bank in a humble capacity and advance through merit alone. From messenger or runner he won his way to his present position, which he has filled since 1894. The First National Bank of Findlay, of which his late father was one of the organizers, and its president until his decease, in 1894, stands among the foremost financial institutions in the state and the conservative methods which marked its progress during the life of the late Elijah Pelton Jones, are in use in its present management. Mr. Jones is widely and favorably known as a financier and is president of the Ohio Bankers' Association. He has additional business interests. In his political views he has always been a stanch Republican but has been consistently averse to holding public office, his only exception having been a service of five years as a member of the city council, accepted as a friendly concession to his ward. He is a member of the fraternal order of Elks and since 1888 has been a Free Mason.

Mr. Jones was married on September 16, 1891, to Miss Cora Elizabeth Carr, whose father was a large glass manufacturer at Bellaire, O. They have one daughter, Gertrude, who was born August 24, 1892. Mr. and Mrs. Jones are members of the Episcopal church. Their beautiful home at No. 719 S. Main Street is frequently the scene of many society functions.

FOLK BROTHERS, manufacturers of office furniture, store fixtures, tables, counters, household furniture, kitchen cabinets, etc., with offices and works at No. 402 East Sandusky Street, Findlay, O., have been partners in this business since November 15, 1888. The firm is composed of Samuel S. and John C. Folk, brothers. The former was born on a farm in Perry County, O., in a pioneer log

house, September 13, 1852, and the latter was born at Findlay, O., at the family home, No. 351 South Blanchard Street, September 12, 1868. They are sons of George and Sarah Ann (Pence) Folk.

George Folk, the father, was a natural mechanic and he was equally at home as a blacksmith, a carpenter or cabinetmaker. His death occurred at Findlay, March 12, 1904. His widow survives and is in her seventy-eighth year. The Folk brothers have inherited their tastes for working in wood, this having been a family trait for generations of Folks. The maternal grandfather, Isaac Pence, was a soldier in the War of 1812 and later in the Mexican War. He was with Commodore Perry at the naval battle fought off Put-in-Bay Island and in this connection a very interesting bit of history may be recorded. Many of the older generation will remember the historical picture that was sure to attract their attention in their old geographies, which represented Commodore Perry and several of his men in a skiff, rowing from Perry's flag-ship to another vessel, during this battle, after the flag-ship had been destroyed. One of the rowers is shown with his head tied up and the original was Isaac Pence, who had been slightly injured and had tied a cloth across the wound. It was the intention of the artist to make the picture historically correct and he succeeded in doing so. Mr. Pence passed through Findlay as a soldier following the old Indian trail and assisted in the building of old Fort Findlay which stood on the west side of Main Street, just south of the bridge. Later in life, Mr. Pence went out as a soldier in the Mexican War.

The Folk brothers began business in a small way at the old family home place, No. 351 South Blanchard Street, where they remained until the completion of their factory on East Sandusky Street, in 1891. In 1901 they made extensive improvements, equipping their works with a full line of modern machinery. Both brothers are skilled mechanics themselves and they entrust their manufacturing only to those equally qualified, giving steady employment to from seven to twelve men. In the main they have been continuously prosperous although they have suffered some misfortunes, including robbery and destruction by fire. On the anniversary of the day of their starting into business they had their safe blown open and had the robbers made their visit on the day before they would have secured over $2,000, which the firm had deposited there. Fortunately this large sum had been removed and the loss aggregated only $15 in money and a trifle in postage stamps, not counting in the damage to the safe. In their second year of business they suffered from a fire. Both brothers are equally public spirited and show an interest in all that concerns the welfare of their city and county. They reside in adjoining houses on East Main Cross Street, the residence of Samuel S. Folk being at No. 500 and that of John C. Folk at No. 506.

Samuel C. Folk married Miss Lizzie A. Early, of Wood County, O., and they have one son, Fred R. John C. Folk married Miss Estella I. Grubb and they have five children: Gaylord A., Violet, Mildred, John and Martha Jennette. The brothers are members of the Modern Woodmen and Samuel S. is identified also with the Maccabees and the Red Men. Neither takes an undue part in politics but the responsibilities of citizenship are never shirked.

ALBERT SAMPSON, one of the substantial farmers and highly respected citizens of Jackson Township, Hancock County, O., was born February 18, 1855, near Baltimore, Md., and is a son of Hinkle Edward and Mary (Standiford) Sampson, both natives of Maryland.

Albert Sampson was reared in Jackson Township and obtained his educational training there. He has always followed farming and has one of the best improved farms in the township, having a fine brick house and barn, the former of which was erected in 1906, and the barn was built six years ago. Mr. Sampson is politically a Democrat, and has served as personal assessor and land appraiser. At present he is appraiser for the Mutual Insurance Company. He is a member and trustee of the M. E. church at Union Chapel, of which he has been a member for thirty years, and is also a trustee of the Cemetery association.

Mr. Sampson was married in 1881 to Lucy Hoy, who is a daughter of Abraham and Mary (Hellen) Hoy, who were well known residents of Hancock County, and of their union were born the following children: Edith M., marrid Wesley White, a drayman of Forrest, Ohio, and has one son, Waldo; Agnes R., married John C. Smith of Eagle Township, and is the mother of two children, Florence M. Smith, and Edson A. Smith; Frederick C.; Annie E.; Golda P.; Virgil, who attends school in Jackson Township.

N. D. DAVIS, a retired farmer and a highly respected citizen of Blanchard Township, was born on the place on which he lives, a valuable farm of 120 acres, October 5, 1844, and is a son of Alfred and Nancy (Houchens) Davis.

Alfred Davis was born in Cynthiana, Ky., and is said to have been a cousin to Jefferson Davis of Confederate fame. With his father, Alfred Davis came from Kentucky to Hancock County and had some school advantages. He was married the first time to Nancy Houchens and they had five children: Laura, N. D., Delilah, Lewis and Herman. After the death of his first wife he married Amanda Stough and they had two children: Nancy May, wife of Frank Robinson; and D. H. S. Alfred Davis entered the farm now owned by his son, N. D. Davis, at first in association with his brother whom he later bought out, and owned 160 acres in all. He became a successful farmer and gave his entire attention to farm pursuits. His death occurred here May 30, 1896, when aged eighty-one years and six months, and his burial was in Blanchard Township. His first wife died August 6, 1858, at the age of thirty-eight years. She was a faithful member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

N. D. Davis was reared in Blanchard Township and attended the district schools and then assisted his father on the home farm. After his own marriage he went to live in Putnam County, not far from McComb, and remained there until 1905, when he came to the old farm he now lives on and owns.

In September, 1869, Mr. Davis was married to Miss Annie E. Vangilder, who was born in Jefferson County, O., later living in Hancock County, and moving from here to Iowa where she was a school teacher. They had three children: Cora, Ora T., and Myrl C. Cora married B. R. Dukes and they have three children: Louis, Arlo and Doras. Ora T. married Blanche Nebeil and they live in Putnam County. Myrl C. is a student in a medical school at Cleveland. The mother of the above family died May 22, 1901, in the Robinwood

Hospital, at Toledo, O., and her burial was at McComb. She was a lady of Christian character and many virtues and was a member of the Presbyterian church. Since then Mr. Davis has united with the Methodist Episcopal church. In politics he is a Republican. He has always been a law abiding citizen but has never accepted any offices in Hancock County.

WALLACE DORSEY, one of Hancock County's well known citizens, has had large business interests here for many years and together with operating a farm of 160 acres, for some thirty years has been engaged in the manufacturing of drain tile. He was born in Allen Township, Hancock County, O., July 5, 1836, and is a son of William and Louisa (Bryan) Dorsey.

William Dorsey was born in Pennsylvania, May 14, 1804, and died September 3, 1886. In early manhood he came to Hancock County, O., and in April, 1835, he was married to Louisa Bryan, a native of Kentucky, who was born in 1811 and died in 1896. William Dorsey secured 160 acres of uncleared land from the Government, which he developed into a productive farm, and both he and wife spent their lives on that place, both fulfilling every duty which life presented to them. William Dorsey was one of the honest, reliable men of Allen Township, and frequently was called upon to serve in public office. His eight children were given the following names: Wallace, Elizabeth, William C., Amanda J., Cordelia, Edson, Winfield A., and Milton.

For twenty years of early manhood, Wallace Dorsey worked as a carpenter, contractor and builder, and through the excellence of this work gained a favorable reputation that extended all over Hancock County. In 1863 he purchased twenty acres of land, to which he subsequently added, and later settled on his property and devoted himself to its improvement. In 1877 he began the manufacture of drain tile and built up a large industry, equipping his plant with machinery that enabled him to make all sizes demanded by the trade. In this business as in other lines, Mr. Dorsey has always maintained the same honesty of effort that produces commodities which ensure the continuance of custom.

Mr. Dorsey was married (first) February 28, 1861, to Miss Lois Nelson, who was born in Ohio, January 10, 1829, and died September 13, 1897. They had the following children: Luella, Charles W., William W., Albert E., Elwood N., Lloyd W., Mary B., Homer O., and Milton L. Mr. Dorsey was married (second) January 28, 1902, to Mrs. Frances E. Bennett. They are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. In politics, Mr. Dorsey is a Democrat. He has never cared for public office, but when elected township trustee, served faithfully and acceptably.

Hon. Homer O. Dorsey, of the above family, is one of Hancock County's leading young men of affairs and is serving in the office of probate judge.

ANDREW JACKSON MOORE, who cultivates 160 acres of valuable farm land situated in Section 15, Big Lick Township, Hancock County, O., is a graduate of the Colorado State School of Mines and followed his profession for three years. He was born on this farm, January 11, 1873, and is a son of A. J. and a grandson of William Moore.

A. J. Moore, Sr., was born in Beaver County, Pa., in 1827, and came with his

father, William Moore, to Hancock County. In 1853 he was married to Nancy Moore, who was born in Ashland County, O., and was brought to this township when she was three months old. Six children were born to them, namely: John F., who has four children—Calvin Lee, Clyde M., Frank Homer and Charles Brooks; William Carlton; Samuel A., who is deceased; Mary A., who married A. W. Lackey, of Morris County, Kan., and they have six children—Edith, Harry, Grover, Grace, Roy and George; Nancy Cassie, who married J. C. Martin, of Wayne County, Kan., and they have four children—Clinton, Lulu, Emery and Carl; and Andrew Jackson, subject of this sketch. The father of this family died in 1897 but the mother still survives and is in the enjoyment of health and has a wide circle of friends, a number of these of many years standing as she is well known in this section.

Andrew Jackson Moore was educated in the township schools. Following out a natural inclination, he then became a student of mining, at Lincoln, Neb., and later attended the Colorado State School of Mining, with the result mentioned above. Although Mr. Moore has a fine technical education in his chosen profession and successfully practiced it until 1901, he has also been very successful as a farmer.

Mr. Moore was married in 1907 to Miss Ida M. Roth, of Findlay. In politics he is a Democrat.

WILLIAM OLIVER LEEPER, a substantial resident of Jackson Township, who for a number of years has been actively identified with business and property interests in Hancock County, was born in Hardin County, O., Oct. 1, 1874, and at the present time is in the prime of a vigorous manhood. His parents were J. F. and Katie Leeper, the former now being a resident of Findlay. He, like his son, is a native of Hardin County and for a number of years was engaged in farming. He settled in Findlay about four years ago, and though somewhat advanced in years is a man still capable of much active exertion. His wife, the mother of the subject of this sketch, comes of a good Catholic family of Hardin County. She is still living and resides with her husband in Findlay.

William O. Leeper was reared in Hardin County and resided there until about fourteen years ago, at which time he came to Hancock County, settling in Jackson Township. In youth he was trained to agricultural pursuits and has been thus engaged much of the time since. His present farm in Jackson Township consists of 300 acres and is a well improved piece of farming property. Mr. Leeper has also had some experience in manufacturing industries, having been employed both in the tile and the target works, in all some seven years. By means of hard work and thrifty living he has attained to a comfortable degree of prosperity. He has invested to some extent in real estate and now owns good residence property on Washington Avenue, Findlay.

Mr. Leeper was married October 3, 1894, to Mary Elizabeth Phillips, a daughter of Joseph and Elmira (Wolfrum) Phillips, of Williamstown, in which place Mr. Leeper's parents both died. Of this marriage there have been the following children: Aloyda Adelbert, who attends school in Findlay;

Joseph Franklin, who died at the age of ten years; Guy Theodore and Albert Leroy, both of whom attend the Findlay schools; Lester D. and Ethel May, the last mentioned of whom died in infancy. Mr. Leeper is a member of the United Woodmen and the United American Mechanics. His political affiliations are with the Republican party but he takes no active part in politics beyond casting his vote.

HON. THEODORE TOTTEN, formerly mayor of Findlay, O., and now serving in his second term as postmaster, has been a prominent citizen here for many years and has been an active member of the Republican party in Hancock County, and at the same time has been a representative member of her bar. He was born on Staten Island, N. Y., January 1, 1848, and is one of a family of seven children born to his parents, who were William and Susan (Platt) Totten.

Theodore Totten was educated in the public schools and when only fifteen years old left home and enlisted in the United States Navy. Probably the fact that his father was a ship builder and the youth was more or less accustomed to hearing of life on the water in this connection, may have determined his choice of the branch of the service to which he attached himself, but the record shows that he was a brave if an unusually young sailor. He is identified with the Grand Army of the Republic.

In 1866, Mr. Totten came to Findlay and embarked in the cigar and tobacco business and later added to his duties and responsibilities by accepting the agency of the Western Union Telegraph Company, with which corporation he continued to be connected for twelve years. Although early circumstances had prevented his following his natural bent and entering into the law in early manhood, he was still sufficiently interested to pursue his legal studies by himself and in 1881 gained admittance to the bar. He engaged in the practice of law from then until 1904, in the meanwhile serving one term as prosecuting attorney of Hancock County and one term as mayor of the city of Findlay. In the above year he was first appointed postmaster and was reappointed in January, 1909. This office is systematically managed and the people of Findlay boast of its good service. In his assistant, Charles A. Saunders, Postmaster Totten has an able helper and he has under his direction and supervision twenty-four other employes, with all of whom his relations are most cordial.

Mr. Totten was married to Miss Melinda Porch, a daughter of Henry Porch. Their pleasant family home is situated at No. 208 First Street. Mr. and Mrs. Totten are members of the First Methodist Episcopal church. He is affiliated with a number of organizations and long has been a Free Mason.

IRVIN FETTERS, one of the successful farmers of Marion Township, Hancock County, O., where he owns 160 acres of valuable land, situated in Section 26, was born on a farm which is now included in the city of Findlay, O., February 22, 1855. His parents were Peter and Catherine (Philipps) Fetters.

Peter Fetters was born in Pennsylvania and after the death of his father he accompanied his mother when she removed to Hancock County, where she was subsequently married to a Mr. Fulk. Peter Fetters grew to manhood in this section and became a farmer in Eagle Township, where he owned the place on

LEONARD C. GLESSNER

which he died. Thirteen children were born to Peter and Catherine Fetters, as follows: Andrew, who is deceased, was a soldier in the Civil War; Elizabeth, who is deceased; Mary Ellen, deceased, who was the wife of Calvin Smith; Eli, who is deceased; Sarah, who is the wife of A. Bond; Isaiah; Irvin; Caroline, who is the wife of Jefferson Baker; Jane, who is the wife of Clayton Van Sant; Uriah; Criselda and Lemuel, both of whom are deceased; and Emma, who is the wife of Lewis Marchall. The venerable mother of this family still survives and her home is at Findlay.

Irvin Fetters remained at home until his marriage, having assisted his father after his school days were over in the old log schoolhouse, with its split log benches. He has devoted himself exclusively to farming and purchased his place from his father-in-law. He has made many improvements, in large degree follows modern methods of agriculture and owns excellent farm machinery. He married Miss Nora E. Bennett, a daughter of Rawson and Matilda (Cooper) Bennett, and they have five children: Aerie, Katie, Clark, Howard and Nelia. Mr. Fetters casts his vote with the Democratic party.

HARRY J. PARKER, who is engaged in general farming on a tract of eighty acres located on the Houcktown-Findlay road in Jackson Township, has been a lifelong resident of Hancock County, and was born April 4, 1876, at Vanlue, Hancock County, O., a son of Wilbur S. and Mary A. (Shuler) Parker. Wilbur S. Parker was also a native of Hancock County, and followed harness-making at Vanlue, where he was residing at the time of his death. His wife was a native of Pennsylvania.

Harry J. Parker was reared in Jackson Township and received his education in the schools of the district, and has always followed farming as an occupation. He purchased his present farm of eighty acres in 1905, from the William Doty estate. Mr. Parker is politically a Republican, and although never caring to hold office, is at present serving as township clerk. He has for twenty years been a member of the M. E. church at Houcktown.

In November, 1898, Mr. Parker was united in marriage with Letie Houck, who is a daughter of S. F. and Rebecca (Sampson) Houck, the former a resident of Houcktown, O., the latter being deceased. Mr. Parker is fraternally a member of the Maccabees, Lodge No. 197, at Findlay, and of Post No. 67, Sons of Veterans.

LEONARD C. GLESSNER, president of the Glessner Medicine Company, of Findlay, O., was born at Delaware, O., March 17, 1853, and is a son of Lewis Glessner, who conducted the Hancock Courier from 1861 until 1879. His mother was Georgiana (Cowles) Glessner, a granddaughter of Col. Moses Bixby, a Revolutionary soldier, who was one of the founders of the town of Delaware, O.

Leonard C. Glessner was only a boy when he accompanied his father to Findlay and he remained here until 1874. He learned the printing business in his father's office and upon leaving Findlay published newspapers at different points in Illinois and Missouri, until 1887, when he returned to Findlay, where he became city editor of the Courier. As a side issue, in 1889, he began the manufacture of medicine but in a short time this interest became paramount and he found it profitable to

devote all his time to it. For twenty-one years he has been manufacturing the famous compound known as Dr. Drake's German Cough and Croup Remedy, which is considered a necessity in many households, trade being heavy all over the United States and in Mexico and Canada. While this remedy is probably best known the company also manufactures another which has no equal of its kind, this being Leonard's Sweet Worm Wafers. The present company was organized in 1905 and was then incorporated with a capital stock of $60,000. Its officers are: L. C. Glessner, president and general manager; Edward Schwartz, vice-president; Hon. A. E. Kerns, formerly probate judge, treasurer; and Lewis W. Glessner, secretary. In 1910, the Glessner Medicine Company took control of the Duke H. Watson Company, which was an old established concern manufacturing livestock remedies, making a specialty of the G. Be German Blemish Eradicator, which is used by horsemen all over the United States. The Glessner Company keeps from two to six men out on the road representing it. The company understands modern business methods and gives much attention to advertising. They own their own printing establishment which is used exclusively in their own business and is larger than any other printing house in Findlay. It is a fact that the Glessner Medicine Company sends out more advertising matter than any other two concerns in the city.

Mr. Glessner was married at Farmer City, Ill., to Miss Emma Chappelear, who was born in Missouri. At that time, Mr. Glessner was conducting a newspaper at Farmer City. They have three children: Lewis W., who is secretary of the Glessner Medicine Company; Harry C., who is also connected with the business; and Mary E. Mr. Glessner and family are members of the First Presbyterian church and he is president of its board of trustees. He is especially well known in Knights of Pythias circles, being a member of Findlay Lodge, No. 85, and since 1900 has been representative to the Grand Lodge and is a member of the finance committee of the latter body. Few citizens of Findlay are more enterprising or progressive and few are better known.

ISAAC DAVIS, one of Findlay's representative business citzens, who carries on a wool and seed business at No. 215 Park Place, is also the owner of many acres of some of the best oil and gas land in Hancock County. He was born in 1837, in Marion Township, Hancock County, O., and is a son of William and Margaret (Lafferty) Davis.

Henry Davis, the grandfather of Isaac Davis, was probably born in Wales. He was twice married, (first) to Margaret Craig, and (second) to Betsey Hammond. Seven children were born to the first union and five to the second. He seems to have settled in Maryland after coming to America and probably died there.

William Davis, father of Isaac, was born in Maryland. He came to Hancock County in 1832, accompanied by his wife, to whom he had been married in 1828. She survived him many years, being, at the time of her death, one of the oldest residents of Marion Township. They had ten children, the two surviving sons being: A. L., who is a practicing physician at Findlay; and Isaac, who has spent his life in Hancock County. William Davis was a man of consequence in this part of Ohio, not only on account of being one of the largest landowners, but

also because of his sterling traits of character. Twice he served Hancock County as a commissioner, and for thirty-two consecutive years was a justice of the peace in Marion Township. He died in 1863.

Isaac Davis, whose landed possessions amount to some 600 acres, on which are valuable oil and gas wells, while one of Findlay's most substantial citizens, is one of the most unostentatious. For many years he has, in large measure, divided his attention between his agricultural affairs and his wool and seed business. Upon solicitation, he has, at times, accepted township offices, including that of justice of the peace, but he has cared little for political honors, finding himself sufficiently interested in looking after his private affairs.

In 1860, Mr. Davis was married to Miss Caroline Gifford, who was born in 1840, in Hancock County, O., on the farm which is now the summer home of the family. Mr. and Mrs. Davis have the following children: William, Florence, David T., George W., Gertrude and Henry. Howard V. is deceased. The family residence is situated at No. 214 Center Street, Findlay.

JOHN HENRY RIDDLEBAUGH, one of Marion Township's well known and highly respected citizens, carries on general farming and owns 195 acres of valuable land, situated in Section 25, not far distant from Findlay, O. He was born in Fairfield County, O., September 28, 1859, and is a son of Henry and Catherine (Shoemaker) Riddlebaugh.

Henry Riddlebaugh was born in Germany and on account of participating in the revolution of 1849, he was expelled with other revolutionists and came then to America. He located at Lancaster, in Fairfield County, O., where he followed the blacksmith trade during his active years. He still survives and in his long life of eighty-six years he has witnessed many wonderful changes, not only in his native land, but also in the one which he adopted. In 1856 he was married to Catherine Shoemaker, who was born in Pennsylvania and died in 1901, at the home of her son James, in Crawford County, O. The Shoemaker family came to Pennsylvania from Switzerland in 1742. Six children were born to Henry and Catherine Riddlebaugh, namely: Jacob, who lives in Crawford County; John Henry; James, who also lives in Crawford County; Theresa, who is the wife of John Snyder, of Hocking County, O.; Elizabeth, who is the wife of Charles Angle, of Hocking County; and Augustus, who resides at Columbus.

John Henry Riddlebaugh started out to take care of himself when he was twelve years old. He came to Hancock County and went to work for Charles Bright, with whom he remained for two years; worked then for George Wiseley, in Marion Township, for three years and for William Thomas for two years, and then went into Big Lick Township and worked one year for William Bright. He had been saving and by this time had enough capital to enable him to buy forty acres of land in Pleasant Township and later bought a second forty acres and sold the timber from both tracts. He then rented land for a short time, but in March, 1896, bought eighty-five acres of his present farm, purchasing from Charles Johnston; later bought thirty-five acres from Tolliver Jacobs; fifteen acres from A. Beard, and twenty acres from the A. Beard estate. To this was added forty acres which was given his wife. It is a fine thing to own 195 acres of valuable land,

but it required much hard work to make a large part of it valuable. Mr. Riddlebaugh by his own toil cleared 100 acres of stumps, did all the necessary ditching and tiling, built his substantial barn and made the other improvements which have transformed what was once merely waiting soil into one of the richest farms and most comfortable homes of Marion Township.

On November 9, 1882, Mr. Riddlebaugh was married to Miss Elvira Wiseley, a daughter of Henry and Loraina (Wiseley) Wiseley, of Pleasant Township, and fourteen children have been born to them, the record being as follows: Iva, the eldest, is the wife of Edward Huntington, of Toledo, O. Ethel is the wife of Porter Shuck of Big Lick Township and they have one child, Pauline. The eldest son is his father's helper and bears the name of Ray. Howard lives at Toledo. He married Mattie Wescott. Earl, Paul, David, May, Alice and Doris, all live at home. Margaret died when aged three years and Lulu died when aged two months. Irma and Helen complete the list. All the children remaining at home who have reached school age are bright, intelligent students. The family belongs to the United Brethren church. In politics he is a Republican but has never consented to accept public offices, the care of his large farm and his other duties so far absorbing the most of his time. He is identified with the Masonic fraternity at Findlay.

SAMUEL C. DAILEY, who, since 1896, has been successfully operating a farm of 171 acres, which is situated in Section 3, Portage Township, Hancock County, O., was born on a farm in Cass Township, May 12, 1869, and is a son of Baker and Mahala (Fisher) Dailey.

Baker Dailey was born on a farm in Washington Township, Hancock County, O., November 14, 1839, and is a son of D. J. and Mary Elizabeth (Hale) Dailey. D. J. Dailey was born at Steubenville, O., in 1811 and came with his parents and other members of his family to Hancock County in 1825 and located in the centre of Washington Township. The wife of D. J. Dailey was born near Wheeling, now in West Virginia, in 1815, and came to Washington Township with her brother, Baker Hale, who entered 160 acres of land in Washington Township, in 1830. After her marriage, D. J. Dailey purchased eighty acres of this land and this continued to be their home. Baker Dailey was reared amidst pioneer surroundings but he was afforded much better educational advantages than were enjoyed by many, attending school at Findlay and Fostoria. When nineteen years of age he began to teach school and continued to teach for fifteen winters, engaging in farming in the summers. He still resides on his farm in Cass Township. On November 6, 1862, he was married to Mahala Fisher, who was born in Carroll County, O., January 9, 1840, and died in 1906.

Samuel C. Dailey was reared in Cass Township and attended the local schools in boyhood and later the Ohio Normal School. He became a very successful and acceptable teacher and for some seven years was engaged in educational work in Cass, Allen, Marion and Portage Townships. Since his marriage he has confined himself more or less to farming and stock raising. With his father-in-law, Levi M. Thomas, he put up all the substantial buildings on the present farm which belongs to his wife. It is well improved and a valuable property. The residence stands on the road that is the dividing line between Portage and Allen Town-

ships, about one and one-half miles southwest of North Baltimore, O.

On September 12, 1895, Mr. Dailey was married to Miss Elsie E. Thomas, a daughter of Levi M. and a sister of J. Curtis Thomas, members of an old and prominent family of this section. Mr. and Mrs. Dailey have four children: Laurel Lynette, Deloy Thomas, Dwight Emerson and Vernard Lowell. Mr. and Mrs. Dailey are members of the First Methodist Episcopal Church at North Baltimore, in which he is a steward. He takes no very active part in politics but is numbered with the most useful and representative citizens of his township, being public spirited, broad minded and law abiding.

ISAAC WALDO MARVIN, one of Findlay's retired citizens of ample fortune, residing in a comfortable and attractive home at No. 206 East Main Cross Street, belongs to an old Hancock County family, which was established here in 1828. He was born at Findlay, November 17, 1855, and is a son of Stephen and Mary (Kelley) Marvin.

The Marvin family, as the name indicates, originated in England. It can be traced in America to Rev. Zera Marvin, who was a well known minister in Pennsylvania, and he was the great-grandfather of Isaac W. Marvin, of Findlay. William Marvin, the grandfather, who was born in Pennsylvania in 1797, came to Hancock County, O., in 1828, and for a number of years, as proprietor of the old Marvin Inn, east of Findlay, was well and favorably known to the traveling public.

Stephen Marvin, father of Isaac W., was born in 1820, in Luzerne County, Pa., and was eight years old when he accompanied his parents to Hancock County. He acquired land which he cultivated and also followed the trade of millwright. In 1841 he married Mary Kelley and they both died at Findlay, in 1893. They were survived by four sons: Isaac Waldo, Cloyd, Clinton and James.

Isaac Waldo Marvin obtained his education in the public schools in the neighborhood of his present home, and at the age of twenty-one he settled down to an agricultural life. For about ten years he continued to farm and raise stock and still retains a large body of farm land, which, since his retirement, he has taken pleasure in quietly overseeing. He is the owner of much real estate in the city of Findlay, included in which is the Marvin Block opposite the Court House. Formerly he was a director in the Farmers' National, now the Buckeye Bank. After leaving the farm and moving to Findlay, he was associated with his brother for some five years in a lumber and planing mill business.

Mr. Marvin was married (first) in 1881, to Miss Lucy Bish, who died in 1886, and was survived by one daughter, Frances, who is a talented and accomplished young lady, a favorite in social circles. In 1890, Mr. Marvin was married (second) to Miss Ada Anthony, and they have had five children: Berenice, Stephen, Mary, Ada Gertrude and Isaac W., Jr. Stephen died in 1906. Mr. Marvin and family are members of the Lutheran church. He has never taken any very active interest in politics, but has always been a good citizen, doing his full duty as such. He is affiliated with the Republican party.

BENJAMIN F. OPP, one of the representative men of Marion Township, Hancock County, O., who has filled many public offices with credit, resides on a farm of seventy-five acres which lies in Section 36, Marion Town-

ship and owns a second farm, containing thirty-seven acres, which is situated in Section 31, Big Lick Township, both in Hancock County. He was born on the old family homestead in Lynn Township, Lehigh County, Pa., January 6, 1840, and is a son of John and Lucinda (Kohler) Opp.

John Opp was born on the same farm as his son, in the old stone house, and was a son of Conrad Opp, who was also born on this farm and whose father had come to Lehigh County from Germany. Conrad Opp became a large land owner, not only in Lehigh County but also in Northeastern Ohio and also built and operated a saw mill on Conneaut River, Pa. He died in 1842, in the old stone house probably still standing, which his father had built when he first came to Pennsylvania. His widow, Magdalena, survived him seventeen years. John Opp, father of Benjamin F., was the eldest son in a family of sixteen children. He became a carpenter and cabinetmaker, having natural mechanical skill as was evidenced when, with no technical training, he built an organ that was subsequently sold at Tiffin, O., for $500. He was also interested for a time in the dry goods business at Barnesville, Pa. His death occurred in July, 1861, at the age of sixty-five years. He married Lucinda Kohler, who was born in Luzerne County, Pa., who lived to be seventy-two years of age. They had two children: Fianna, who is now deceased, who was the wife of Daniel Bailey, also deceased; and Benjamin Franklin.

Benjamin F. Opp grew to manhood in Lynn Township and attended school there, having better advantages than were afforded many of his associates and began to teach school when he was seventeen years of age. He then came to Ohio and located in Hancock County and remained away from home for two years, then went back to the old farm for a short time and was married in Lehigh County, returning then to Hancock County. He purchased eighty acres of his present Marion Township farm, which was then mainly swamp land, paying $800. He had the foresight to look forward when this land, properly drained, would be rich in all the essentials for crop production and he kept adding from time to time and improving, laying down a large amount of tile before he was satisfied, and now owns one of the best paying farms in Marion Township. His other property is also valuable and both farms are under careful cultivation at present.

Mr. Opp was married to Miss Sarah Mussick, who died in 1892. They had the following children: John, who married Hattie Altman, has two children—Bertha, who is the wife of Harry Thomas and they have one child, Ruby, and James, who is a graduate of Findlay College; Alexander L., who married Esther Beard, has three children—Onen, a graduate of Findlay College, Grace and Rosella; Ella, who married O. C. Myers and they have two children—Ruth and Walter; Lucinda, who died aged nineteen months; Charles, who married Nellie Smith, has one daughter, May; Flora, who married B. Routson and they have one son, Frank Samuel; Catherine, who is a teacher; and Emmet, who assists on the home farm. Mr. Opp is a member of the United Brethren church. He is a Democrat and has served as a justice of the peace, as township trustee and as a member of the school board.

JOHN REIMUND, who resides on a farm of eighty acres in Allen Township, is also the owner of another farm of forty acres in Allen Township, Hancock County,

O., and is extensively engaged in the production of oil. He was born November 28, 1871, in Findlay, O., and is a son of William and Martha (Byal) Reimund.

William Reimund was born in Germany and at the age of three years came to America with his father, Peter Reimund, who settled on a farm in Liberty Township, and was there reared to manhood. When a youth he began learning the harnessmaking trade with William Edwards, of Findlay, O., and remained in his employ about eighteen or twenty years. He then rented the old Price farm in Liberty Township for a time, and later purchased a farm in the same township, where he died in 1896. The mother of our subject is still living.

John Reimund went to live with his uncle, Philip J. Reimund, of Liberty Township, when quite young, and was there reared to maturity. When oil was discovered in this section of the country, he became an oil pumper and pumped some of the first wells operated in this field. He has been extensively engaged in the production of oil since 1902, his first production being on the Franks' farm in Allen Township, and has become very well known in the county as an oil operator. He has been residing on his present farm, which is located in the southwestern corner of Allen Township, since 1907, but previous to that time was living on a farm of forty acres, located on the Decker road. He resides in a fine frame residence which he erected at the time he located on the place.

Mr. Reimund was united in marriage with Mary Franks, who is a daughter of Jacob Franks, and they have two children: Clarence and Guyneth. Mr. Reimund is a member of Hancock Lodge No. 73, I. O. O. F.

JAMES R. CLARK, deceased, was one of Findlay's most respected citizens, where, for a great many years he was a leading business man, the pioneer cabinetmaker and later the largest funeral director in the city. He founded the business which is continued by his son. James R. Clark was born July 24, 1824, and died August 13, 1906.

Mr. Clark was of Irish ancestry, his father, Forbes Clark, having been born in Ireland, and he emigrated to America and settled at Harrisburg, Pa., prior to the birth of his son. The latter was but eight years old when he was left an orphan and he was reared in the home of an aunt, in Cumberland County, Pa., where he lived on a farm until he was eighteen years of age. He then learned the cabinetmaking trade at Gettysburg, Pa., and lived there and at Philadelphia until 1848, when he came to the small town of Findlay, which, even then was showing the signs of awakening that indicated excellent business opportunities for the future. Mr. Clark was possessed of the foresight to take advantage of these and in 1849, having made progress in his trade, he added undertaking to his cabinetmaking and founded the business with which he was identified during the remainder of his life, occupying the same site during all that time. He increased his facilities as the demand for his services grew, and for a long time was the leading funeral director and embalmer in the city. He was a man of quiet tastes and led a simple, well

ordered life and was a consistent member of the Lutheran church.

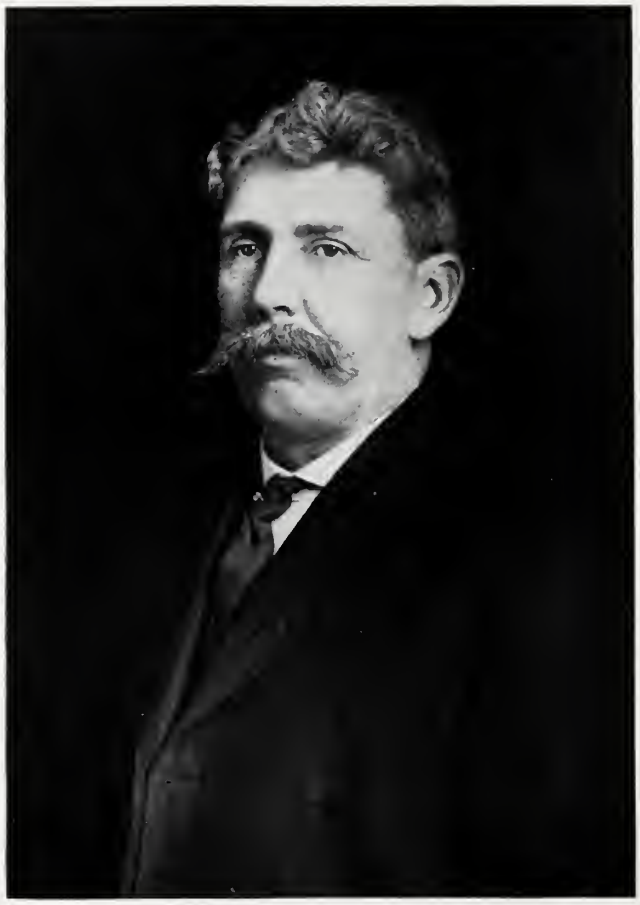
In 1851, at Findlay, Mr. Clark was married to Miss Mary Ann Devine, and they had four children, and the eldest son, W. S. Clark, continues the undertaking business, his location being at No. 119 East Crawford Street, while his residence is at No. 206 West Sandusky Street, Findlay. For more than a half century James R. Clark was an Odd Fellow, but that was his only fraternal connection.

JOHN W. TAYLOR, who carries on general farming on a tract of 101 acres in Section 25, Allen Township, Hancock County, O., is also engaged in the production of oil and is one of the representative citizens of the community in which he lives. He was born December 19, 1840, in Van Buren, O., and is a son of Washington and Martha (Moorehead) Taylor.

Washington Taylor was born July 4, 1818, in Bedford County, Pa., but spent part of his boyhood days in Richland County, O., and in 1836 came to Hancock County, and for several years worked at his trade as a cabinetmaker at Van Buren. After locating on the farm, he gave up cabinetmaking and became noted as one of the most energetic and hard working farmers of the township, and had little patience with those who shirked their duties. He was married to Martha Moorehead, who was born October 30, 1818, in Stark County, O., and died in Allen Township in 1887. She came to Hancock County with her parents during her girlhood days, and was a daughter of John Moorehead, who was born in 1791 in Westmoreland County, Pa., and died in 1876 on his farm in Portage Township, Hancock County, O.

John W. Taylor was about two years old when his parents came to Allen Township and settled on a farm just north of his present one. Here he was reared and as soon as old enough assisted with the work on the farm. He has ever since engaged in agricultural pursuits and in 1864 came to his present farm of 101 acres, which is located on the Taylor road about half a mile west of the Perrysburg turnpike road. Since the discovery of oil in this locality, Mr. Taylor has also been extensively interested in the production of oil. In 1890 Mr. Taylor erected a large frame residence, which is without doubt one of the most beautiful country homes in Allen Township.

Mr. Taylor was united in marriage with Eliza E. Moyer, a native of Westmoreland County, Pa., who has been a resident of Hancock County, O., since her girlhood days, and is a daughter of Elias Moyer, who was a farmer by occupation. Mr. and Mrs. Taylor are the parents of the following children: Etta, who is the wife of Charles Larkin, of Findlay, O.; Milton, who is a resident of Eagle Township, Hancock County, is an oil pumper by trade; Martha E., who is the wife of Samuel Draper; Elmer E., who is now in the gold fields of Alaska; Josiah Vernon, who lives in Illinois; Carl D., who resides at home; Viola, deceased, who was the wife of Edward Douglas; and two children deceased, one at the age of ten years and one in infancy. Mr. and Mrs. Taylor are members of the Van Buren Presbyterian Church, of which he is also an elder.



HON. E. LINCOLN GROVES

HON. E. LINCOLN GROVES, mayor of Findlay, O., and for many years a prominent citizen of Hancock County, was born in Blanchard Township, Hancock County, February 6, 1861, and is a son of Savadra and Lucinda (Fisher) Groves.

Savadra Groves was born in Pickaway County, Ohio, in 1826, a son of Thomas Groves, who was born in Pennsylvania. In 1828 Thomas Groves came to Hancock County and bought a farm in Blanchard Township where he died at the age of eighty-four years. On that farm Savadra Groves grew to manhood and spent his life engaged in agricultural pursuits. His death occurred in 1878. He married Lucinda Fisher, a native of Crawford County, O., who still survives.

E. Lincoln Groves is an only child and he was reared on the old home farm and attended the country schools. He then engaged in the butcher business for a time at McComb, in Hancock County, but shortly after his marriage returned to the farm and continued to live there until he was elected sheriff of the county, January 1, 1905, and his acceptance of the office made removal to Findlay desirable. He served as sheriff through two terms, making an admirable official and retired on January 1, 1909. In the fall of the same year, his Republican friends again called him to public office, electing him mayor of Findlay and he assumed the municipal reins on January 1, 1910. He has always been an active and earnest citizen and many times has been elected to positions of responsibility. For twelve years he served on the Blanchard Township School Board, of which he was president for two years, and in other offices, and was also one of the most highly valued members of the Agricultural Society.

Mayor Groves was married at McComb, O., to Miss Mary Alice McKinnis, a daughter of Thomas McKinnis. She was born and reared in Blanchard Township. Her family is an old one in the county, her grandfather, Charles McKinnis, having settled in Liberty Township in 1827. Mayor and Mrs. Groves have five children, Fern, Carl, Ruth, Albert and Leland. Mayor Groves is a member of Hancock Lodge No. 75, Odd Fellows; the Knights of Pythias, No. 400, and also the Elks and Maccabees. He is giving the people of Findlay a fine business administration and in his efforts he is receiving the full support and commendation of the best class of citizens.

FRANCIS W. FIRMIN, M. D., senior member of the firm of Francis Wilber and John M. Firmin, physicians and surgeons, at Findlay, O., enjoys the honorable distinction of being the oldest practicing physician in this city. Dr. Firmin was born July 15, 1842, at Richfield, Summit County, O., and is a son of F. B. and Mary C. Firmin.

Dr. Firmin is able to trace his ancestry very far back, reaching even to William the Conqueror, but he takes greater pride in the courageous forefather who came from Ipswich, England, to the inhospitable shores of Massachusetts, in the winter of 1630, founding on American soil a family that now has honorable representatives all over the land. From Summit County, O., the parents of Dr. Firmin moved to Springfield, Mass., in 1844, and from there to South Hadley Falls, and later to South Wilbraham, where Francis Wilber attended school. In May, 1862, he came to Findlay and shortly afterward entered Oberlin Col-

lege, with the intention of completing the regular course of that institution. The agitation incident to the continuance of the Civil War was the cause of many a young man changing the whole current of his life, and young Firmin, with a number of his classmates, determined to leave their books and enter the army to assist in putting down rebellion. His service, which terminated with his honorable discharge on March 10, 1864, was in Co. E, 129th O. Vol. Inf.

The young soldier on his return did not reenter college, on the other hand he made the initial step on the path which subsequently led to a foremost place in the field of medicine at Findlay. He became a medical student in the office of his uncle, Dr. Lorenzo Firmin, under whose direction he prepared for the medical department of the Western Reserve College at Cleveland, where he was graduated February 18, 1867. He immediately entered upon professional work in this city, establishing his own office and continuing alone until he subsequently admitted his son, John M., to partnership. The latter is a graduate of the Cleveland College of Physicians and Surgeons, in the class of 1897. The Firmin name has been one of strength in the medical profession in this part of Ohio for many years, representing at all times, skill, ability, education and close adherence to professional ethics. The present firm is located in the Adams Building. Both physicians are valued members of the leading medical organizations of the country, including the American Medical Association, and the older physician was instrumental in founding the Medical Society of Hancock County.

As a citizen, Dr. Firmin has been zealous in his support of all measures promising to be of permanent benefit to Findlay, giving liberally of his time, means, and professional services on many occasions. He served four years as a member of the city council, seven years as a member of the Board of Education, and innumerable times on committees for the betterment of civic conditions. Since 1872 he has served continuously as examining surgeon for pensions, in Hancock County, with the exception of eight years, during a Democratic administration, and for a large part of that period has been president of the examining board. He is identified with the Grand Army of the Republic and has taken an active interest in the post at Findlay. Fraternally he is an Odd Fellow and a Mason, in the latter organization being particularly prominent, being a Knight Templar and Scottish Rite 32nd degree and a member of the Mystic Shrine.

Dr. Firmin was married on May 6, 1869, to Miss Mary L. D. Meeks, a daughter of Rev. John A. Meeks, and they have had six sons and one daughter born to them: Otis, deceased; Scott, John M., George, deceased; Clara, deceased; Frank Bope and Carl Giles. Dr. Firmin's residence is located at No. 1009 South Main Street, Findlay.

JOHN W. SWAB, who is extensively engaged in general farming and stock raising on a tract of 312 acres in Marion Township, adjoining his residence property, which is located in Section 22, is one of the leading citizens of

Hancock County, Ohio, and was born June 29, 1853, in Washington County, Pa., a son of Solomon and Catherine (Gallaway) Swab.

Solomon Swab was born in Washington County, Pa., where his parents, who were natives of Germany, settled at an early period. He was reared to manhood on the banks of the Monongahela River, and became a ship builder by trade. He later purchased a farm in Washington County and about 1863 brought his family to Wood County, Ohio, and settled on a farm, which now forms the northeast portion of North Baltimore. He operated this farm about seven years, then traded the land for our subject's present farm, which was then owned by John Franks. He married Catherine Gallaway, who was also a native of Washington County, Pa., and they had the following children: Mary, who is deceased, was the wife of James Weaver; Sarah Ann, who died young; Jane, who is the widow of John Weisel; John William; Nancy, who died young; Salina, who is the wife of Frank Bibler; and Alice, who is the wife of James Swartz. The mother of this family died at Findlay, O., and the father's death occurred on the farm.

John William Swab was ten years old when his parents came to the State of Ohio and his educational training was obtained in the district schools of Wood County. About 1873 the family came to Hancock County and settled on our subject's present farm in Marion Township, where he carries on farm pursuits on an extensive scale. He raises and deals largely in stock, keeping about a car load of steers and 100 head of hogs on hand. He has had three gas wells in operation on the place, ran a dairy wagon to Findlay for about eighteen years, and has made extensive improvements on the farm, including the erection of a fine residence.

In November, 1878, Mr. Swab was joined in marriage with Emma Walters, who was born and reared in Hancock County, and is a daughter of David and Amanda (Bear) Walters, who were early settlers of the county. Mr. and Mrs. Swab have reared three children: Nettie, who married G. W. Kistler of Marion Township, and they have three children, Grace, Dorothy, and Lester; Frank, who is a resident of Marion Township, was elected trustee of the township on the Republican ticket, married Bessie George, and has one daughter, Helen Frances; and Julia, who lives at home. Mr. Swab is a Republican.

D. M. DREISBACH, a highly respected citizen of Benton Ridge, Hancock County, O., a retired farmer, for many years engaged in agricultural pursuits in Blanchard Township, where he still retains his valuable farm of 162 acres. He was born in Pickaway County, O., September 28, 1845, and is a son of Abraham E. and Mary Ann (Miesie) Dreisbach.

Abraham E. Dreisbach was born in Bucks County, Pa., February 21, 1818, a son of Rev. John and Fanny (Eyer) Dreisbach. Rev. John Dreisbach was born in Buffalo Valley, Pa., in 1789, and in 1807 he entered the ministry under the leadership of the Methodist reformer, Rev. Jacob Albright, who had founded the Evangelical Association in 1800. John Dreisbach was married first to Fanny Eyer, who died in 1815, leaving two children: Salome and Elizabeth. In 1817 he married her sister, Katherine Eyer, who was born September 22, 1791, and became the mother of his eleven children, named as follows: Abraham E., Isaac E., Catherine E., Sophia E., Jacob E., Leah E., Martin E., Susanna E., John E., Fannie E. and Martha E. In 1831, Rev. John

Dreisbach came to Pickaway County, O., where he invested in much land. He gave all his children a farm and so arranged them that his own farm should be in the center of the settlement. His time was entirely taken up with his ministerial duties. He was a man well fitted for pioneering evangelical work, having the courage and enterprise together with the true zealous religious faith. He purchased the first printing press in Pickaway County and published the first Evangelical hymn book and was the first elder of this religious body in Ohio.

In large measure Abraham E. Dreisbach worthily followed in his father's footsteps. In early manhood he too became a minister and filled various pulpits and during the closing years of his life he traveled as an evangelist. His death occurred at Tiffin, in Seneca County, O. He was married (first) in 1840, to Mary Ann Miesie, a native of Bucks County, Pa., who accompanied him to Pickaway County, O., in the same year. She died February 9, 1857. His second marriage was to Elizabeth Stroll, who died in September, 1871, and in 1873 he was married to a sister of his second wife, who survived him, his death taking place August 28, 1876. His burial and those of his wives took place at Tiffin. All his children were born to his first marriage. The Dreisbach family originated in Germany, the name coming from a German word combined with the numeral three, the family having long been established at a point in Germany where three rivers unite.

Prior to the breaking out of civil strife, in 1861, D. M. Dreisbach helped with farm work and, as opportunity offered, attended the district schools in Seneca County. When the call came for troops he enlisted in Co. B, 195th O. Vol. Inf., and remained in the service until the close of the war, receiving his honorable discharge on December 22, 1865. He was a brave and faithful soldier at all times but was one of the fortunate ones who returned to their peaceful homes without having been seriously injured by the dangers which they had daily faced. He is a member and for three years was commander of Engler Post No. 109, G. A. R., at Benton Ridge, O. Mr. Dreisbach resumed farming and continued until he retired to Benton Ridge, March 1, 1908. Of his farm in Blanchard Township, he has all but four acres under the plow and all of it is well drained. He cleared about one-third of the land after locating on it, and through careful cultivation developed its fertility.

Mr. Dreisbach was married October 15, 1867, to Miss Caroline Wagner, a daughter of Jacob and Mary (Brant) Wagner, and seven children were born to them, namely: Lillie W., who lives at home; Silas W., who married Iowa Green, of Hancock County, lives in Blanchard Township; Helena W., who married L. B. Ray, of Benton Ridge; William H., who married Eva Hickman, of Blanchard Township; Aaron W., who is unmarried; David W., who married Edna George; and Arthur W., who married Zella Watkins, resides in Blanchard Township.

Mr. Dreisbach has been a lifelong Republican, casting his first Presidential vote for Gen. U. S. Grant. He has creditably filled a number of township offices. Formerly he was identified with the local lodge of Odd Fellows and belongs to Mt. Blanchard Lodge No. 519, F. & A. M.

JOSEPH P. BAKER, M. D., of Findlay, who takes high rank among the medical men

of Hancock County, was born at Fostoria, Seneca County, O., June 9, 1864. His parents were Joshua C. and Clarissa A. (Moorhead) Baker, the former of whom, a native of Columbiana County, this state, followed the combined occupations of farming and teaching. They were married in 1863 and their family in due time numbered six children. When their son Joseph was an infant they removed to Hancock County, where they have since resided.

In his boyhood days Joseph P. Baker attended school at Portage, and later at Findlay, continuing his studies until he had reached his sixteenth year. From receiving instruction he then took to imparting it, becoming a teacher in the schools of Wood County, O., in which occupation he was engaged for seven consecutive years. He then began the study of medicine, under the guidance of Dr. Anson Hurd of Findlay, an old and well known physician. He subsequently continued his professional studies at Starling Medical College, at Columbus, O., which he entered in 1888 and from which he was graduated in the class of 1890, his marked ability as a student and his personal popularity having won for him the honor of being made president of the class. On leaving college he began the practice of his profession at Findlay and thus continued for several years. To increase his store of medical knowledge he attended in 1894, the New York Polyclinic, and three years later took a post-graduate course in New York, being determined to keep himself abreast with the progress of his profession. His conscientious efforts in this direction have borne their natural fruit in a large and increasing practice and a high professional reputation. Joining the Northwestern Medical Association soon after his location in this city, he served as its secretary from 1895 to 1902, in which latter year the honor was conferred on him of being elected president of this association—an honor that sufficiently indicates the regard in which he was held by his medical brethren, and which was the more remarkable because of his youth. From 1890 until 1893 he served on the Pension Board of Hancock County. He is the leading examination surgeon at Findlay for several of the more prominent life and accident insurance companies, and holds the chair of obstetrics and diseases of children, in the Findlay City Hospital. Besides his membership in the Northwestern Ohio Medical Association, as already mentioned, he belongs to the Hancock County Medical Society, the American Medical Association and the Order of Railway Surgeons.

As an evidence that he was still held in affectionate remembrance by his class-mates, he was elected, in 1901, president of the Alumni Association of his college, being also appointed one of the censors. Dr. Baker is a Free Mason of high standing, in 1891 being made a Master Mason in Findlay Lodge, No. 227, and being also a member of Findlay Chapter, No. 58, Council, No. 59, and Findlay Commandery, No. 49. He was also made a Scottish Rite Mason in 1898, at Cleveland, O., and is a member of Zenobia Temple at Toledo. His other fraternal connections are with Findlay Lodge, No. 85, Knights of Pythias; Findlay Lodge, No. 75, of the Elks, and Hancock Lodge, No. 73, I. O. O. F.

Dr. Baker was united in marriage May 25, 1892, to Miss Harriet Schwartz, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Schwartz, and they have a pleasant home at No. 228 W. Lincoln Street, Findlay. In politics, Dr. Baker is a

Republican, although his political activity has been confined hitherto to casting his vote.

CHARLES PHILIP ROTH, a much esteemed farmer and enterprising citizen of Hancock County, O., resides on a fine farm of ninety-three acres located in Section 21, Marion Township, and was born December 11, 1876, in Marion Township, this county, a son of George and Eva (Rouch) Roth.

George Roth was born in Darmstadt, Germany, and in 1844, with his brother Adam, came to America. They immediately went to California in search of gold, Adam working in the gold fields, and George operating a clothing store and tailoring establishment. They subsequently returned to Germany, and some time later came to America again in company with a number of other young people, among them being Eva Rouch, whom the father of our subject shortly afterward married. They came to Hancock County, O., and located at Findlay, where they owned two pieces of property, upon which site the Republican building is now located. This was later disposed of and a farm of sixty acres in Marion Township purchased, and in the course of a few years Mr. Roth returned to Findlay, where he resided two years. He then purchased the Lewis Thomas farm in Marion Township, and there engaged in agricultural pursuits until the time of his death, which occurred January 13, 1897, at the age of sixty-seven years. He is survived by his widow, who is now seventy-two years of age, and makes her home with our subject. Five children were born to George and Eva Roth, namely: Elizabeth, who is the wife of Harvey Johnson; Mary, who married William Busch; Maggie, who is the wife of Henry Springston; William, who died aged nine years; and Charles Philip, the subject of this record.

Charles Philip Roth grew to manhood on his father's farm in Marion Township and as soon as old enough began assisting with the work at home. He purchased his present farm of ninety-three acres from the Tussing heirs, and carries on farming in a general way. On October 4, 1900, he was joined in marriage with Mary Smith, who is a daughter of Michael and Barbara Smith, both living in Eagle Township. Mr. and Mrs. Roth have three children: Harriet, Edna, and George. The religious connection of the family is with the English Lutheran Church of Findlay. Mr. Roth is a Democrat.

WILLIAM BENSINGER, one of the representative and substantial citizens of McComb, a retired farmer and an honored veteran of the Civil War, was born in Wayne County, O., January 14, 1840, and is a son of Reuben and Hannah (Feazel) Bensinger.

Reuben Bensinger was born in Schuylkill County, Pa., in 1818, and died in Ohio in 1884, aged sixty-five years. He came to Medina County with his parents, John and Mary (Alspaugh) Bensinger, the former of whom died in Wayne and the latter in Medina County. The grandfather of William Bensinger was a shoemaker but the father was a farmer and when the latter bought the farm on which he died, all but eight acres was covered with timber. Reuben Bensinger was married to Hannah Feazel, in Wayne County, where she was born, in 1839. She was a daughter of Pleasant and Mary Feazel. Her death occurred in 1902, at the age of eighty-four years. In 1841, Reuben Bensinger, wife and son, moved to Medina County and in 1858, to Hancock

County, settling in Pleasant Township four miles from McComb.

William Bensinger was the only child born to his parents. He attended school until he was sixteen years of age, as opportunity presented, and worked on the home farm until 1861, when he enlisted for service in the Civil War. He was mustered in at Findlay, O., as a member of Co. G, 21st O. Vol. Inf. During the campaign through Kentucky and Tennessee that followed, he was with his regiment continuously and took part in the battle of Ivy Mountain. Subsequently, with twenty-one comrades, he was detailed to capture certain trains and destroy certain bridges and at Big Shanty, while in the line of duty, captured a train on the West Va. Railroad and ran it for ninety miles, but then suffered capture himself. He was imprisoned at Chattanooga and with his companions was court martialed and eight of his comrades were executed. He was held a prisoner for eleven and one-half months when he succeeded in escaping but was recaptured and was then in prison at Atlanta from October until December, 1862, when he was sent to Richmond and was exchanged on March 17, 1863. He reported to his regiment, then at Murfreesboro, and took part in the succeeding campaign which included the battle of Chickamauga. In the meanwhile he had applied to the Secretary of War for a commission as captain of a colored regiment and this was given him and was signed by President Lincoln. In September, 1863, he organized Co. C, 13th Col. Inf., and continued in command until January, 1866. The bravery and efficiency of the troops under his command was shown at the battle of Nashville, when twenty-eight of his men were killed and twenty wounded in twenty minutes. Captain Bensinger was also wounded but he never left the field.

After his honorable discharge, Captain Bensinger returned to the home farm and operated it for two years and then went to railroading, becoming a brakeman on the C. H. & D. Railroad, with which company he remained for twelve years, as brakeman, baggage master, fireman and engineer. He was also with the Pittsburg & Fort Wayne and the L. E. & Western, as an engineer. In 1880 he retired from the railroad and then engaged in farming in Pleasant Township where he continued until 1900, when he sold his farm and came to McComb. Since locating here, Mr. Bensinger has kept himself busy in the agency line, selling fertilizers and fruit trees.

Mr. Bensinger was married February 11, 1864, to Miss Sarah Harris, a daughter of Wesley and Mary (Smith) Harris, of Charlotte, Tenn. She was born in North Carolina and accompanied her parents to Clarksville, Tenn. where both died. Mr. and Mrs. Bensinger have one son, Charles Harry, who was born at Waverly, Tenn. He is connected with the U. S. Mail service. He married Mary Barger, a daughter of Fred Barger, of Pleasant Township, Hancock County, and they have one son, William Frederick.

Mr. Bensinger and son are Republicans. Infrequently he has served in township offices, being constable for one term and in 1890 was census enumerator. He is a member of John Howard Post No. 154, G. A. R., at McComb.

JAMES S. JOHNS, sheriff of Hancock County, O., and one of its most popular officials, was born in Marion County, O., January 21, 1864, and is one of a family of ten children born to his parents, who were Samuel

R. and Isabel (Bruce) Johns, the former of whom was a native of Allen County, but died in Pulaski County, Ind., in 1883.

James S. Johns was reared on his father's farm in Allen County where the family went in his boyhood. In November, 1892, he came to Hancock County and found work in the rolling mills and then went into the oil fields. In the meanwhile he had made many friends in the county and had impressed them with his courage and good judgment and in January, 1905, he was made deputy sheriff under Sheriff E. L. Groves, and in November, 1908, was elected sheriff, on the Republican ticket. Sheriff Johns has proven himself an admirable officer and during his administration many breakers of the law have had reason to fear his stern and unrelenting adherence to the path of duty.

Sheriff Johns was married to Miss Ella M. John, a daughter of Abiah John. They are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. He is prominent in Odd Fellowship, being a member of all its branches, and belongs also to the Knights of Pythias and the Rebeccas.

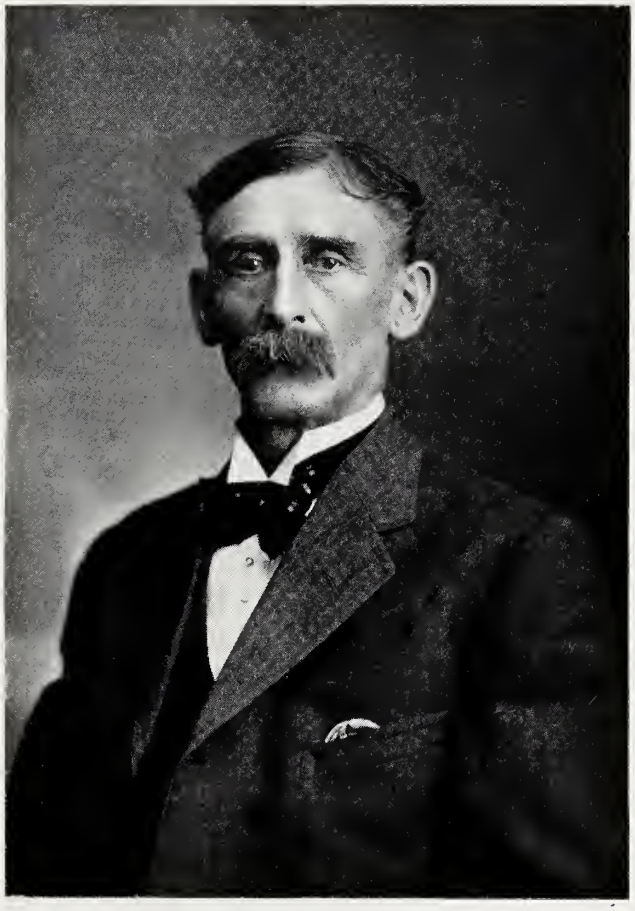
FRANK BROWN, who resides on his valuable farm of eighty acres, which is situated in Section 10, Portage Township, Hancock County, O., about eight miles northwest of Findlay, came to this place in the spring of 1861. He was born in the State of New York, October 10, 1836, and is a son of Joseph and Susan (Severly) Brown.

The parents of Mr. Brown were born in Germany and when they came to America had four children. For some years they lived in Tonawanda, N. Y., and then moved to Crawford County, O., where they remained for thirteen years and then went to Sandusky County, where the father acquired twenty acres of land and by shrewd trading exchanged it for eighty acres. Joseph Brown, with the help of his sons, cleared, ditched and cultivated this land.

When Frank Brown was twenty-five years old he came to Hancock County and located on the place on which he has ever since lived. No clearing or improving had yet been done on this land and he found the task a long and hard one to put the land under its present state of fine cultivation. He cleared up the greater part of his farm by himself. His first house was the usual pioneer log cabin, which he pulled down in 1882 and in its place built the fine large brick house in which he now lives in great comfort. He carried on general farming for many years but has been retired from active labor for some time, renting out his fields to reliable tenants.

Mr. Brown was married to Miss Mary Reed, the estimable daughter of Matthew and Clarissa (Nesbitt) Reed, of Richland County, O. She is a lady possessed of many accomplishments, not the least of these being a complete knowledge of all housewifely arts. By a former marriage, Mr. Brown had nine children born to him, the six survivors being: Mrs. Amanda Jane Milligan, Samuel, Homer, Wilbur, Mrs. Vesta Hutchison and Albert. The three children deceased were: Emma, Moses V. and Lewis, the sons being accidentally drowned. Mr. and Mrs. Brown are valued members of the United Brethren church at Van Buren, O.

J. N. WYER, whose farm of 275 acres is situated in Section 15, Union Township, Hancock County, O., but who resides in Rawson, this county, was born at Lancaster, Fairfield



J. N. WYER

County, O., September 21, 1854, and is a son of Henry and Ann E. (Ashbaugh) Wyer.

Henry Wyer was born in New Jersey, in 1828, and died in June, 1906. He was young when his parents moved to Fairfield County, O., where he grew to manhood and subsequently became a prominent farmer. He married Ann E. Ashbaugh, who was born in Fairfield County, O., and still resides on the old homestead in Marion Township, Hancock County.

J. N. Wyer obtained his education in Fairfield County and in schools near Findlay, to which place he came when thirteen years old. His business has always been farming and stock raising and he settled on his present place after his marriage. This took place on January 24, 1885, to Miss Laura O. Wonder, who was born and reared in Wyandot County, O. Her parents were Mathias and Katherine Wonder, old residents of that county. Mrs. Wyer died August 15, 1909, at Rawson, O. She was a most estimable lady in every relation of life and was a consistent member and earnest worker in the Evangelical church. Mr. and Mrs. Wyer had two children born to them: Oran O. and Mabel. The former is an expert telegrapher and is in the employ of the Lake Shore Railroad. Mabel graduated from the Bluffton High School on May 27, 1910, having taken also a special course in Latin. Mr. Wyer takes no very active part in politics.

JOHN S. ROSE, a well known general farmer and highly respected citizen of Hancock County, O., resides on a farm of 106 acres, located in Section 23, Marion Township, and was born October 6, 1852, at Bellpoint, Delaware County, O., and is a son of Rev. Alvan and Elizabeth (Morey) Rose.

Rev. Alvan Rose was of Scotch-Irish descent and a native of Delaware County, O. His mother died at the time of his birth, and his father subsequently married and moved to Illinois. He was reared by relatives in Delaware County and for seventeen years taught the district school during the winter months and a select school during the summers. He also practiced medicine a short time, but later entered the ministry, and after serving one year in the Mexican War, preached one year in Delaware County and three years in Seneca County. During this time he was sent among the Freedmen of Mississippi on the old Joseph and Jefferson Davis plantation, and while there had the small pox, and was nursed back to health by the old negro mammy who had nursed Jefferson Davis. Upon his return from the south Rev. Rose came to Findlay, O., where he traveled a circuit for many years and was for some years presiding elder of this district. Rev. Alvan Rose married Elizabeth Morey, a native of Pennsylvania, who came to Delaware County, O., at the age of seven years, and died at Findlay in February, 1900. Of their union were born ten children: Amelia, deceased; William, deceased; John S., our subject, and his twin, Anna, the deceased wife of Elias Hoot; Harvey and Horace, twins, both deceased; Alvan, deceased; Lillian, wife of Ernest Jacqua, of Medford, Ore.; Mary, wife of John Hoover, of Portland, Ore.; and Francis. Rev. Rose died in September, 1881, at Findlay, O., aged fifty-three years and eight months.

John S. Rose was a small child when his parents moved to Indiana for a year, from whence they moved to Seneca County, O., and in the fall of 1864 came to Hancock County. Here he was reared and educated and during

his early manhood taught school for a time, as did the other children of the family. He was also a clerk for a time in Connell's Book Store at Findlay, but since his marriage has followed general farming on his present farm, which was inherited by his wife, whose grandfather, Major Bright, entered the land from the government.

Mr. Rose was married April 23, 1878, to Minerva Bright, who was born in Marion Township, Hancock County, O., and is a daughter of Levi and Mary (Gear) Bright. Of their union were born the following children: Lulu, died in infancy. Samuel, who resides on part of the home farm, is a graduate of the Tri-State College of Angola, Ind., and taught three years. He is politically a Republican, and in the fall of 1907 was elected clerk of the township and a member of the school board. He is a candidate for county clerk of Hancock County, in the fall elections of 1910. He was married September 15, 1902, to Wilma Smiley, and they have three children, Alvan, Lela, and Ana. May, who is the wife of Roy Bear of Jackson Township, is the mother of two children, Olive Elizabeth and Bernerdine.

Mr. Rose is politically a Republican and has served six years as township trustee. He and his family are members of the United Brethren church, in which he has held all the local offices; and has been secretary of the Circuit since 1885, and has served as a delegate to the Central Conference and in various other offices.

JACOB E. POWELL, M. D., physician and surgeon at Findlay, has been actively engaged in the practice of his profession in this city since June, 1890, and through his professional knowledge and skill, has built up a large and lucrative practice. He was born April 15, 1861, in Eagle Township, Hancock County, O., and is a son of Daniel L. Powell, one of the older residents of Eagle Township.

Dr. Powell was one of a large family of children and during his boyhood and early youth his help on the pioneer farm was needed by his father, the latter having secured his land from the Government in 1836. Agricultural life, however, did not appeal to the youth in any way and he eagerly took advantage of every chance to advance himself in a knowledge of books, and at a surprisingly early age secured a certificate to teach school. He continued to teach and while so engaged continued his own studies and thus prepared himself for entrance to Findlay College, of which he is a charter member, and while there followed the same course and prepared for the College of Physicians and Surgeons, at Baltimore, Md. From that institution he was graduated in March, 1890.

With his diploma in his possession, which had been earned through perseverance and self denial, Dr. Powell confidently entered into practice and the immediate and continued success which has crowned his work, has given the best testimony to the thoroughness of his knowledge as well as to his natural aptitude in this greatest of professions. In 1892 he was elected coroner of Hancock County and served two years but otherwise has accepted no political position.

Dr. Powell was married November 6, 1887, to Miss Eva J. Oman, of Bluffton, Ind. They are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. Fraternally he is an Odd Fellow. His convenient and well equipped office is located at No. 414½ S. Main Street, Findlay.

CLYDE WHELAND, proprietor of the Arcadia Elevator and dealer in grain, seeds, flour, meal, feed, lime, salt, coal, etc., makes a specialty of custom grinding, and is one of the representative business men of Arcadia, Hancock County, O. He was born November 26, 1882, in Arcadia, and is a son of John Henry and Barbara Ellen (Warner) Wheland.

John Henry Wheland was born September 1, 1845, on the old Ebersole farm near Arcadia, O., and is a son of William and Hannah (Kohlmeyer) Wheland, pioneer settlers of Washington Township, Hancock County, O. William Wheland, grandfather of our subject, was born in Center County, Pa., in 1817, a son of Michael Wheland, who was one of the early settlers of that section of Pennsylvania. In 1844, William Wheland, with his wife and child, came to Hancock County, O., and settled near what is now Arcadia, but which at that time was principally timberland, the town not being laid out until some time later. William Wheland married Hannah Kohlmeyer, who was born June 2, 1824, in Butler County, Pa., and their union resulted in the following issue: George W., who served in the Civil War; John Henry, father of subject; Sarah C., deceased, who was the wife of Mosheim Hoffman, deceased; and Mary Jane, deceased, who was the wife of Richard Anderson. William Wheland and his wife both died on the farm near Arcadia, his death occurring at the age of sixty-nine years, and hers at the age of fifty-six years. John Henry Wheland was reared on the home farm, and in early manhood bought seventy-four acres of the home place, of which he cleared about thirty-five acres and placed it under cultivation. About the time of the oil boom in Hancock County, he sold eleven acres at $300 an acre, for town lots, and on November 3, 1889, bought a general store at Arcadia from Fred Farley. This he operated until 1910, when he sold the business to his son, Floyd Wheland, and has since been residing on his farm near Arcadia. During his early life he also operated a drug store for a time, and was one of the organizers and is a director of the Arcadia Bank and Savings Company.

John H. Wheland was married January 24, 1867, to Barbara Ellen Warner, who is a daughter of Jacob and Sarah Warner, and their union resulted in the following issue: Amanda, who is the wife of F. H. Conaway; Parley A., who is manager and proprietor of the Arcadia Electric Light Company; William, who died in infancy; Floyd, who is engaged in the grocery business; and Clyde and Clare, twins, the latter of whom died in infancy.

Clyde Wheland was reared and has always lived in Arcadia, and was educated in the public schools of the town. During his early manhood he engaged in farming on his father's farm near Arcadia, and in 1905 purchased his present business from H. L. Lyons. The building, which is located along both the L. E. & W. R. R. and the Nickel Plate R. R., was purchased from E. P. Huss.

Fraternally Mr. Wheland is a member of the Masonic order at Fostoria, O., and is politically identified with the Democratic party.

In June, 1904, Mr. Wheland married Miss Ethel Parker, who is a daughter of J. H. Parker, of Findlay, O., and they have one daughter, Dorothy.

GEORGE W. MOWERY, one of Pleasant Township's best known citizens and a member of one of the pioneer families, resides on his finely improved farm of twenty

acres situated not far from McComb, Hancock County, O. He was born November 6, 1850, in Pleasant Township two miles southwest of McComb, in the log cabin his father had built with care and pride after coming into the wilderness as this section then was. He is the only surviving son of George and Eliza (Asire) Mowery.

George Mowery was born in Virginia and his father was a large slaveholder, having many bondsmen and owning 1,000 acres of land on the James River, forty miles from Richmond, to which city he sent flour from his mills and the products of his distillery. Circumstances led the son George to seek a home in early manhood in a free state and he went to Westmoreland County, Pa., where he married Eliza Asire, a daughter of Henry Asire. She spent her last days with her youngest daughter, Mrs. Growel, at McComb, O., where she died in September, 1907, in her eighty-eighth year. Her family came to Ohio and her parents died in Medina County. A sister and brother, Jeremiah and Mrs. Maria Moore, live in Indiana, and after a brother, David Asire, died at Fostoria, his son, Judson Asire, assumed his father's business interests and is in the undertaking business there.

When George Mowery and family came to Hancock County, in 1846, they made the long journey in the usual pioneer wagon and many weeks passed before they were able to establish their little home. The father was a far-seeing man and he knew that his eighty acres of ridge and swamp land would sometime be of great value although at that time the ridge was covered with a heavy growth and the swamp acres were under water. In fact the whole region between McComb and Toledo was then known as the Black Swamp. George Mowery came first and all alone built the cabin which the family subsequently lived in comfortably and happily for many years. No nails were used in its simple construction. The mud chimney, however, was wide and deep and the subject of this sketch recalls many a happy evening when he and his brother David sat in its glow and warmth and roasted apples and potatoes. In retrospection those days seem to have been full of enjoyment. The death of George Mowery occurred in May, 1867, in his fifty-first year.

To George and Eliza Mowery the following children were born: Margaret, who is the widow of James Morrison, of Findlay; Henry, who died at the age of seven years; Elizabeth, who is the wife of Robert I. Mackey, of Pleasant Township; Susan, who died, aged thirteen years; George W.; David, who is now deceased, was in the employ of the B. & O. Railroad, lived at Defiance and is survived by his widow, Mrs. Rosa (Simcox) Mowery; Ada, who married Turner Mackey, resides with her husband on the old Mackey farm southwest of McComb; Belle, who is the wife of Jacob Growel, of McComb; William, who died aged three years; Jane, who died at the age of five years; and John, who died in infancy.

George Washington Mowery enjoyed district school advantages, but he had to walk four miles along a blazed path through the woods in order to reach the little log school house. As soon as old enough to be useful on the farm his attendance was confined to the winter seasons. He easily re-

calls when miles intervened between the homes of settlers. When he was but a small lad he could help his father in his harvesting by riding the horses when they trampled the wheat and he could carry the bags of grain on horseback five miles to a fanning mill in order to have the wheat separated from the chaff. Only one who can remember these old and arduous days of farming can fully appreciate the value of modern machinery and the new methods. Mr. Mowery remained on the home farm until he married. He learned the carpenter trade and worked at the same all through this section for twenty-five years but has devoted himself to the cultivation of his little farm for the past few years. In 1907 he started the erection of his handsome ten-room house in which he has introduced many comforts and attractive features.

Mr. Mowery was married in 1873, to Miss Theresa Brown, a daughter of James and Mary Brown, who came to Hancock County from Ashland County, in 1865 and settled in Pleasant Township where Mr. and Mrs. Mowery now live. Mrs. Mowery's mother died on this farm at the age of sixty-three years and her father when aged sixty-six years. They had the following children: Theresa, Mrs. Mowery; Sarah, who is the wife of Ames Barger, of McComb; Thomas, who is a resident of Bellefontaine, married Lillie Longfellow; Maggie, who lives at North Baltimore, O.; and Benton, who lives at McComb, married Daisy Van Stronder, of Van Wert, O.

Mr. and Mrs. Mowery have eight living children, one daughter and seven sons and one son is deceased. Charles B. married Daisy Joyce, of Hamilton, O., and they reside at Lima and they have one daughter, Mabel. Earl resides at home and assists his father. Wallace married Flossie Poe and they have one son, Robert Doldin. Pearl is the wife of George Sharninghaus, a successful farmer of Portage Township, and they have four children. Orie is unmarried and lives at home. Bert is a painter by trade and is now an employe of the Nickel Plate Railroad in Pennsylvania. Ray and Jay are both at home. Mr. Mowery takes no interest in politics beyond the demands of good citizenship. He votes the Republican ticket.

HON. HOMER O. DORSEY, who was elected judge of the Probate Court, in Hancock County, O., in the fall of 1908, has proved his judicial qualities in the most satisfactory way and is numbered with the leading jurists of the county. He was born in Allen Township, Hancock County, O., January 27, 1879, and is a son of Wallace and Lois (Nelson) Dorsey.

Judge Dorsey was reared on the home place and attended the public schools and later the Ohio Northern University at Ada, after which he devoted seven years to teaching and during this time was superintendent of the schools of Arlington, O. For five years he served as deputy clerk under Judge Banker, in the office of the probate judge of Hancock County, and in the performance of the duties of this position not only became well acquainted all over the county but inspired the confidence that resulted in his election with a very large majority, to the office of the probate judge of

this county. In politics he is a Democrat and a prominent factor in party affairs.

Judge Dorsey married Miss Hattie E. Dunlap, a daughter of George Dunlap, on February 11, 1900, and they have two children: Loel Dorothy and Anna Lucille. Judge and Mrs. Dorsey are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. Their pleasant home is situated at No. 416 Cherry Street, Findlay. He is identified with the I. O. O. F., the B. P. O. E., the M. W. of A. and the Knights of Pythias, also with various political organizations, and frequently serves on benevolent and public spirited boards

PETER INEBNIT is a well known resident of Blanchard Township, who lives in Section 11, on a valuable farm of ninety-four acres. He was born in the old log house built on this place by his father, February 24, 1849. His parents were Uhlrich and Madalena (Wise) Inebnit.

Uhlrich Inebnit was born and reared in Switzerland and was there married. In 1844, when he was thirty-eight years of age, he came to America and after reaching Hancock County, O., bought forty acres of wild land in Blanchard Township, this being the original homestead. He cleared his farm, but subsequently worked at his trade of tailor whenever he had the opportunity. With the Inebnits the Wises came also to Hancock County, settling in Blanchard Township on an adjoining farm, Uhlrich Inebnit died in 1866, his widow surviving him until 1890. They were the parents of nine children, four of whom were born in Switzerland. The family record is as follows: Elizabeth, now deceased, was the wife of Frederick Wise; Magdalene, who is the widow of James H. McClintock; Uhlrich; Anna, who is the widow of Samuel Behular; John, who is now deceased; Peter; Mary J., who is the wife of William Madouse; Christian D.; and one other that died in infancy.

Peter Inebnit had but meagre educational advantages, as he was obliged to begin the battle of life when but a boy. Brought up on the farm, he acquired a store of practical knowledge pertaining to agricultural affairs, of which he has since made good use. By purchase from the other heirs of his father's property he acquired their interests therein, becoming the sole owner, and he has devoted his land to general farming. He has been quite successful and is numbered among the prosperous residents of his township.

Mr. Inebnit was married April 25, 1872, to Miss Sophia Madouse, a daughter of Frederick and Sophia (Hennings) Madouse. Her parents were married in Germany and on first coming to Ohio located at Fostoria. Mr. Madouse remembered working many a day at splitting rails for fifty cents per hundred. Later he bought the farm in Hancock County, O., on which his son William now lives. The other surviving member of his family is Sophia, the wife of the subject of this sketch. Mr. and Mrs. Inebnit have had six children, namely: Mary E., who is the wife of W. B. Conine and resides in Portage Township, this county; John A., who married Maude Doty and resides in Findlay; George F.; Charles H., who died at the age of twenty-one years; Harvey V., who manages the farm for his father; and Jessie O., who lives at

home. Mr. and Mrs. Inebnit are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. They have three grandchildren—Clarence, Mabel, and Rachel Conine. Mr. Inebnit and his sons are Republicans. He has served as township supervisor and also on the school board. He is one of the township's reliable and respected citizens.

ALFRED L. RUSSELL, who owns eighty acres of farm land, situated in Section 6, Big Lick Township, Hancock County, O., six and one-half miles east of Findlay, on the Tiffin turnpike road, was born on this farm, December 17, 1861, and is a son of William and Elizabeth (Taylor) Russell.

William Russell was born in Jefferson County, O., April 14, 1826, a son of William Russell, who was born in County Cork, Ireland, and came to America in 1812. The father of Alfred L. Russell was left an orphan at the age of fourteen years. He came as a farm hand to Big Lick Township where he worked until he purchased the farm which he continued to reside on until his death, on July 20, 1902. In 1852 he was married to Elizabeth Taylor, who was born in Washington Township, Hancock County, and died April 8, 1895. To this union nine children were born, as follows: George, Martha J., Wesley J., Emily, William T., Sarah C., Alfred, Robert B., and Charles.

Alfred L. Russell has spent the greater part of his life in his native township, where he obtained his education, and has been engaged in farming and stock raising ever since leaving school. The favorable location of his farm gives him one of the finest watering places for his stock, in the township. He has two gas wells in operation on the farm that he uses for his own purposes. He purchased this place in 1890, it being a part of the old homestead.

In 1887, Mr. Russell was married to Miss Zettie Snyder, and they have had five children, namely: Floyd, Ethel, Arnot, Ruth, and Kent, who died in infancy. Mr. Rusell and family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and attend services at Arcadia. He is a Republican in politics but has never been willing to be a candidate for office. He is one of the reliable and representative citizens and practical business men of this section.

CHARLES F. SMITH, general manager at Findlay for the Toledo, Bowling Green & Southern Traction Company, and a man of enterprise and achievement in various related lines of industry, was born in Cincinnati, November 6, 1863. He is of German extraction, his father, John C. Smith, having come to America in infancy with his parents, who located in Cincinnati where they passed the remainder of their lives. John C. Smith, who was a mechanic by trade, took part in the defence of the Union during the Civil War, serving as a member of an Ohio Infantry regiment. He died in Cincinnati in 1893 at the age of fifty-three years.

The literary education of the subject of this sketch was secured in the schools of his native city, which however he left at the age of fourteen years to accept a position as office boy with the Mt. Adams and Eden Park Inclined Plane Railway Company. After ten years' faithful service with the

company, during which time he made the best use of his opportunities for acquiring a knowledge of railway matters, he was made assistant superintendent, and held that position until he came to Findlay, in September, 1887. Here he seized upon an opportunity presented to him, and purchasing the material, superintended the building of the Findlay Street Railway. This line had at first a single trackage of eight miles, which, however, has since been more than doubled. On the absorption of the street railway by the Toledo, Bowling Green and Southern Traction Company, which subsequently occurred, Mr. Smith was made manager of the latter and he has since retained that position. This he is preeminently qualified to fill, as he has served in every department and has a thorough practical knowledge of every department in the business.

But Mr. Smith has also been active in other fields of industrial effort. In 1892 he assisted in organizing the Hancock Light & Power Company and became its president, which office he held for three years. From the reorganization of the company in 1895 he served as vice president until it was absorbed by the Findlay Street Railway Company, four years later. In June, 1901, Mr. Smith took another progressive step, securing the franchise for heating houses by the hot water system, which business is conducted by the traction company, under his management. In all these varied enterprises, each having an important and preeminently useful as well as general application, Mr. Smith has proved himself to be a man of ability and force, such as is needed in every community that aspires to be up-to-date in this Twentieth Century. His success is more noteworthy, as it is not due to the initial advantages of a liberal education, but rather to his own native energy and his ability to see and seize the opportunities presented to him, which many others would have passed by unnoticed. Some of the most successful lives in the history of our country have been made up of just this kind of material, and to record them is to furnish an inspiration to the youth of today that, if heeded, will bear good and plenteous fruit.

Mr. Smith was married at Cincinnati, in 1885, to Miss Lizzie J. Farland, daughter of John M. Farland, and has one son, Harry C. The hospitable home of the family is at No. 718 S. Main Street. In politics Mr. Smith is a Republican. He has fraternal connections with the Masons (being a member of the Mystic Shrine), the Odd Fellows, Knights of Pythias, and Elks.

CLARK L. SHEPPARD, president and general manager of the Sanitorium and Remedy Company, at Nos. 2217-2219 North Main Street, Findlay, O., bears a name that has been identified with the healing art for several generations, both his father and grandfather possessing a knowledge and medical skill that enabled them to eradicate that terrible scourge of the human flesh, cancer. For the relief and cure of this dread disease, together with other persistent blood troubles, the Sanitorium and Remedy Company opened its quarters in this city, in April, 1908. Those interested in the enterprise are all men of high personal and financial standing, the officers being: Clark L. Sheppard, president and general manager; James M. Steen, vice president; and John C.

CLARK L. SHEPPARD

Firmin, secretary and treasurer. The Sanitorium is a commodious three-story brick building which was formerly a hotel. It has been fitted up with every comfort and pleasant surroundings assured patients, many of whom come long distances for treatment.

Clark L. Sheppard was born in Lapeer County, Mich., July 3, 1860, and is a son of Gustavus C. and Hannah M. (Thornton) Sheppard. Gustavus C. Sheppard was born in New York and in early manhood accompanied his father, William Sheppard, to Canada. The latter was a native of England, who had come to America as a missionary and while among the Indians learned of the remedy which his descendants have preserved and so successfully made use of as a healing agent. Gustavus C. Sheppard was married in Canada and moved from there to Michigan, where his daily work was coopering but he was widely known also as a healer through the remedy above mentioned.

Clark L. Sheppard was reared in the pine woods of Michigan. His mother died when he was twelve years old but he remained in Michigan and first made use of this famous cancer remedy while living in Cass County. In 1888 he came to Findlay and began the manufacture of his medicines in 1891 over what is now the Buckeye Bank. For twenty-eight years Mr. Sheppard has been interested along the lines indicated and he doubtless has brought relief, cure and happiness to hundreds of his afflicted fellow creatures. He has grateful letters telling of the same and also has a large collection of valuable relics of various kinds presented to him by those who have been under his care at different times and they make a very interesting exhibit.

Mr. Sheppard was married (first) to Miss Ellen McClury, and (second) to Miss Clara E. Scott. He has four children: Roy, Fisk, Ethel and Glenn. He is identified with the Odd Fellows, the Modern Woodmen and the Maccabees.

ABRAHAM M. KYSER, M. D., a prominent and experienced medical practitioner of Hancock County, O., who has been located at McComb for the past thirteen years, was born in Holmes County, O. three and one-half miles east of Loudonville, May 21, 1833. His parents were Cornelius and Susan (Melott) Kyser.

Cornelius Kyser was born April 1, 1800, in Herkimer County, N. Y. His father was Stacy Kyser, a native of Holland and a man of superior education, having a speaking knowledge of three languages and being able to write in two of these. He settled first in New York but later moved to Bradford County, Pa., where his death occurred. Cornelius Kyser was twenty-four years of age when he went from New York to Pennsylvania and was thirty-two years old when he located, in 1832, in Holmes County, O. He was married in Center County, Pa., to Susan Melott, a daughter of John and Catherine (Bitner) Melott. John Melott was born in the city of Cologne, Germany, and his earlier educational training was for the priesthood. Later he spent seven years at Cologne engaged in the study of medicine and surgery. He escaped from his native land at the time of Bonaparte's invasion, shipped on an out-going vessel and was landed at Philadelphia. There he soon afterward was married to Catherine Bitner, who had been born near Cologne. John Melott died in Center County, Pa., where they were in affluent circumstances, owning

400 acres of land, including the site of the town of Melottville. His widow subsequently married Daniel Boon and after his death she removed to Holmes County, O., where she died and her burial was in the Nashville Cemetery.

Cornelius Kyser moved from Holmes County to Richland County, where his death occurred at the age of seventy-eight years. His widow survived to be eighty-nine years of age, her death occurring at Crestline, in Crawford County. Both parents of Dr. Kyser, with two brothers and a sister, lie buried in the Nashville Cemetery. The mother was a highly educated woman, a fine German scholar and was gifted in music. Of the children of Cornelius Kyser and wife, the following reached maturity: Almira, Catherine, Elsie, Julia Ann, Abraham, Ammon, Hester, Martin L. and James U. Almira was married first to Rev. Percell, a minister in the Disciples church in Illinois. He died soon after marriage from smallpox and their child also died of this disease. Her second marriage was to Samuel Borden. She still survives and is about eighty-nine years of age. Catherine died at Antwerp, in Paulding County, O. She married Isaac W. Young and all the family except two sons died at Antwerp. Elsie, now deceased, was left a widow a few years after her marriage to T. W. Rodgers, a hardware merchant of Cleveland. Julia Ann, now deceased, was the wife of Harrison Quail, who was an artist and musician and was a brother of Senator Quail, of Iowa. Abraham M., was the fifth member of the family. Ammon died of typhoid fever at the age of twenty-three years. Hester resides on the home place at Nashville and is the wife of James McClarren. Martin L. died in early manhood. James U. resides at Mt. Cory, in Hancock County, a farmer. He was married the first time to Ellen Smith, of Mercer County, O., and his second wife was Elizabeth Faulk, of Mt. Cory.

Abraham M. Kyser attended the Nashville schools in his youth and in his desire for a higher education he was encouraged by his mother. Very early he began to teach school and thus in great measure, provided for his own educational advancement, attending the Normal School at Haysville, in Ashland County, and Spring Mountain, in Coshocton County. He taught acceptably in Ashland, Holmes and Coshocton Counties, continuing up to the time he entered the old Buffalo Medical College, after which he practiced medicine for five years and then attended the eclectic schools at Cincinnati and later at Milwaukee, Wis. He has been in harness, as it were, for fifty-two years, beginning at Nashville, going then to Mohickenville, and from there to Mt. Blanchard, in Hancock County and there was associated for a short time with Dr. Clark. From there he went to Vanlue and from there to Mercer County, where he was physician for a convent for over three years. For some eight years he practiced at Monroeville, Ind., and for twenty-two years was at Bluffton, O., coming then to McComb. He stands at the head of his profession here, both as to skill and experience. He is a member of the Northwestern Quarterly Eclectic Medical Association and also of the Ohio State and the National Eclectic Medical organizations. He is the

leading exponent of this system of medical practice in Hancock County.

Dr. Kyser was married (first) on April 10, 1860, to Miss Cecelia Moore, who was born at Wooster, O., and died in 1877. She was a daughter of Jesse and Catherine Moore. To this union three daughters and one son were born: Almira E., who is the wife of C. W. Brand, a druggist at Findlay, and they have one daughter, Fera, who married Harry Overton; Israel C., who died in infancy; Lillie M., who married E. N. Kyser, of Findlay, O., and they have one son, Joy; and Cora C., who married Elmer Flack, of Findlay, O., and they have had two daughters and one son: Garnett, deceased, who was the wife of Clyde Chambers, of Lima, now assistant postmaster at Seattle, Wash.; and Vera and Harry, both of whom live at home.

Dr. Kyser was married (second) in 1894, to Miss Della Snyder, a daughter of Peter Snyder, a prominent and wealthy farmer near Lima. Dr. Kyser is an active member of the Presbyterian church although his early religious connections were with the Reform church.

J. L. HIGBIE, M. D., a successful medical practitioner and one of the representative business men of Jenera, Hancock County, O., was born February 23, 1863, in Allen County, O., and is a son of Henry H. and Nancy E. (Suaney) Higbie.

Henry H. Higbie taught school for many years in Indiana and Ohio during his early life, but later engaged in farming in Allen County, O. He died in March, 1908, at Lima, O., where he had been living in retirement for eight years, and is survived by his widow, who is a resident of Lima. They were the parents of the following children: Frank, J. L., Emmet, Bert, Jennie, Cora, and Ada.

J. L. Higbie was reared in Allen County, O., and obtained his early education in the village schools and at Westminster. He also attended the Ohio State Normal School at Ada for three years, and then read medicine with Dr. Blackson and took a course in medicine at the St. Louis Medical College. In 1888 he came to Jenera, O., where he has since been continuously and successfully engaged in following his profession. Dr. Higbie is a member of the Hancock County and Northwestern Medical Societies. He is politically a Democrat, and was for thirteen years a justice of the peace, and for six years served as mayor of Jenera. He is vice president of the Farmers' Banking Company of Jenera, and his religious connection is with the Lutheran church.

Dr. Higbie was joined in marriage with Miss Mary E. Traught, a daughter of Peter Traught, who resides near Jenera, and of their union were born the following children: Una, Lloyd, Merle, and Howard.

FREDERICK J. BICKELHAUPT, a retail grocery merchant of Findlay, O., is a native of Germany, having been born in the Province of Hesse-Darmstadt, near the River Rhine, in 1843, a son of John Bickelhaupt. The latter, who was born also in Germany, in 1821, emigrated with his family to the United States in 1851, locating first in New York City. A year later they came to Findlay, O., where Frederick J. Bickelhaupt has since made his home. The father died at Findlay in 1896.

Frederick J. Bickelhaupt in his youth received but a limited education, but later reading, together with observation and contact with

the practical affairs of life, broadened his understanding and made him in time a man of good mental equipment, which he is today. When the Civil War broke out, like so many of his countrymen, he offered his services, enlisting at Findlay, in October, 1862, in Co. G, 57th O. Vol. Inf., with which he saw an active service of four months, for the following three months being confined to the hospital. Subsequently receiving an honorable discharge, he returned to Findlay and entered into partnership with his father in the grocery and produce business, which connection lasted until 1881, when the elder partner retired from the firm. The business was continued alone by the junior partner until 1896, when he also retired for a time from business activity. However, in 1907, he resumed as a retail grocery merchant and is conducting a large business at No. 513 So. Main Street, Findlay, where he has a modern, well equipped store. In the past as in the present, Mr. Bickelhaupt won public confidence through honorable methods. In politics he supports the principles and policies of the Republican party, taking an intelligent interest in public affairs and always casting his influence on what he believes to be the right side. Fraternally he holds membership in the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

Mr. Bickelhaupt was first married in 1870. In 1894 his second union occurred, to Miss Addie D. Folk, a daughter of George Folk, of Findlay. Her family is an old one in this state, dating from pioneer days, and her maternal grandfather, Israel Pence, was born in Ohio and served against the British in the War of 1812. Mr. and Mrs. Bickelhaupt have a pleasant residence at No. 131 West Lincoln Street. They are held in high esteem by the citizens of Findlay.

CYRUS W. CANFIELD, one of the representative agriculturists of Cass Township, Hancock County, O., and a well known and valued citizen of a section in which his life has been mainly spent, owns 160 acres of valuable land which lies partly in Cass and partly in Allen Township. He was born on this farm, in the old log house which was the pioneer home of the family, January 23, 1845, and is a son of Elijah C. and Sarah (Weiss) Canfield, a grandson of Eli B. and Johanna (Wright) Canfield, and a great-grandson of Elijah Canfield.

The first Elijah Canfield was born in England but he evidently was brought early to the American colonies and the family record tells of his becoming a soldier in the Revolutionary War when a youth of fourteen years and of his being held in such favor by the great commander that he was made one of Gen. Washington's body guards. He spent his closing years in Ohio and died in Portage County when within six years of the century mark. The name of his wife has not been preserved but he had three sons and three daughters born to him.

Eli B. Canfield, grandfather of Cyrus W. Canfield, was the eldest of the above six children and he was born in one of the mountainous counties of the State of New York. After the War of 1812, in which he possibly took part, he moved to Ohio and settled in Portage County. From there, in 1836, he moved to Hancock County and located in the deep woods in Cass Township, with his nearest neighbor fully a mile distant. Subsequently he sold that farm and in 1846 moved to Michigan, where he bought a quarter section of land and resided there until the time of his death, just prior to the opening of the Civil War, when

aged seventy-six years. His old age thus was preserved from the grief that would have fallen on him had he known that within a few years one of his stalwart sons, Elanson, would have died on the field of battle, suffering from fourteen wounds made by Confederate bullets. His widow survived him six years, dying also in Michigan. They had eleven children, five of whom survived infancy, namely: Murwim, Elijah Cyrus, Harry, Elanson and Harriet. The only one yet living is Elijah Cyrus, the venerable father of Cyrus W. Canfield.

Elijah Cyrus Canfield comes of a long lived family. He was born September 14, 1820, in Portage County, O., and was only a boy when the family came in its covered wagon to Hancock County, an ox-team drawing the same safely over the rough unsettled country. In those early days in Cass Township, schools had not yet been generally established and he was so eager to gain some book knowledge that he attended a subscription school for three months after he was twenty-one years of age and paid for the instruction himself. As soon as he was old enough he went into the woods and did his share of clearing, working over many acres. About the time of his marriage he bought the farm of forty acres on which he still lives, from his father, and was, in his prime, probably the equal of any farmer in this section. He also followed threshing for a number of years and in his work, while active, was more or less associated with his son, Cyrus W. He has always been a Democrat and still deems it his duty to exercise his right of citizenship. Mr. Canfield is the oldest resident of Cass Township.

Elijah Cyrus Canfield has been twice married. On February 27, 1844, he was united with Sarah Weiss, who left three children at her decease some years later, namely: Cyrus W.; Mary, who became the wife of William Gassman, and they have five children—Charles, James, Philip, William and Minnie; and Ella Jane, who married Warren Albertson and they have two children—William and Lillian. On December 25, 1884, Mr. Canfield was married again, this time to Mrs. Sarah Weiss, widow of Reuben Weiss and daughter of Samuel and Mary (McDougal) Edgar. No children were born to Mr. Canfield to this union but Mrs. Weiss had eight children born to her former marriage: Graig, Mary, Lavina, Sarah, Melissa, Alta, and three that died in infancy.

Cyrus W. Canfield obtained a district school education. He has always lived on his present farm but also has a home in the South, where he spends his winters. He assisted his father for many years and for fifty years followed threshing as a business, beginning with the old horse-power thresher, he and his father owning the first machine of the kind in Hancock County and they operated with it for twenty-three seasons. Later improved machinery was purchased and when Mr. Canfield retired from the business he owned modern equipments. At different times he has made improvements on his property and his comfortable residence is a well arranged eight-room house.

Mr. Canfield was married to Miss Maria Ames, a daughter of Milton Ames, and they have two children: Sadie and William. The former is the wife of J. C. Kissell and they have three children: Treasure, Paul and Ruby. Mr. and Mrs. Kissell live in Allen Township, Hancock County. William Canfield is a resident of Wood County. He married Bertha Huffman and they have two children: Orpha and Fay. Mr. Canfield, like his father, is a

Democrat and at different times he has served as school director and supervisor.

J. CURTIS THOMAS, a prominent farmer and large land owner, of Portage and Allen Townships, Hancock County, O., has 160 acres in Section 10, in the former and eighty acres directly across the highway, in Allen Township. He was born on this farm, February 12, 1875, and is a son of Levi M. and Mary C. (Wilson) Thomas.

Levi M. Thomas was born on Sand Ridge, Pleasant Township, Hancock County, a son of Jacob Thomas, who came to Ohio from near Moundsville, W. Va. Levi M. Thomas was reared in Pleasant Township and came to the farm owned by his son, J. Curtis, just after his marriage and cleared the land and made all the improvements. He was a successful farmer and large stock raiser and owned 372 acres of valuable lands. His death occurred May 11, 1906. He married Mary C. Wilson, who was born in Illinois and was brought to Ohio in girlhood by her father, William Wilson. She survived until November, 1905.

J. Curtis Thomas has always been interested in farm pursuits and has been particularly successful in many branches of agriculture. He carries on a general farming line and raises stock and since 1891 has made a specialty of raising Percheron horses.

Mr. Thomas married Miss Alta Cathers, who was born and reared in Pennsylvania, a daughter of James Cathers, and they have three children: Mary Chloette, James Levi and Harold Curtis.

J. C. SHELDON, proprietor of a saw mill and one of the prominent business men of Houcktown, O., was born April 10, 1853, on a farm in Amanda Township, Hancock County, O., and is a son of James Washington and Easter (Clowr) Sheldon, who were well known farmers of this county. The father died in 1895 at Bluffton, O., and the mother died in 1880.

J. C. Sheldon attended the district schools and remained on the home farm until nineteen years of age, since which time he has been engaged in business for himself at Houcktown. He engaged as a bridge contractor for a number of years, and has for years operated a saw mill, buying timber which he prepares for the market. He deals principally with the farmers of this locality, although he disposes of considerable red oak, basswood and maple at Findlay, and constantly employs two men in the mill beside himself. Mr. Sheldon recently purchased from Mrs. Hannah Brown a grist mill, which is one of the land marks of Houcktown, and will remove it to his saw mill property, where he owns one acre of land. Besides his residence property at Houcktown, where he has a lot 120 by 140 feet, he also owns eight acres of farm land north of Houcktown, and also owns the only blacksmith shop in town. This he rents out. With his sons he owns three sets of oil and gas well tools and contracts in drilling.

Mr. Sheldon was joined in marriage with Miss Sarah A. Marquat, who was born in Findlay, O., a daughter of John Marquat, and of their union were born the following children: Hettie Lorena, who is the wife of M. C. Woodward, of Marion, O.; Bert LeRoy, who is married and a resident of Findlay; Edith Lavinda, who is the wife of F. M. Sampson of Arlington, O.; Cleo ,who is employed as a stenographer at Columbus, O.; Annie; John James; Grover Perry, who is married al-

though but seventeen years old; and Irma Lorina.

SAMUEL L. McKELVY, formerly attorney at law but now engaged quite extensively in the insurance and real estate business at Findlay, O., was born on a farm in Island Creek Township. Jefferson County, O., January 4, 1848, and is a son of Crawford and Charity (Van Gilder) McKelvy.

Crawford McKelvy was an old settler in Jefferson County. In 1849 he made his first trip to the gold fields in California, where he remained for two years and then came home for a visit but subsequently went back and made a longer stay in the mining regions. In the fall of 1861 the McKelvy family moved on a farm in Orange Township, Hancock County, which the father sold in 1867, and they then moved to Plymouth, Ind.

Samuel J. McKelvy attended school in Orange Township and during the spring and fall of 1866 was a student in the Findlay High School and after the family removed to Plymouth, Ind., he entered the High School there and was graduated in 1868. Mr. McKelvy went then to Ann Arbor, Mich., where he entered the University of Michigan and remained two years, taking a special course. From there he accepted the position of principal of the High School at Missionary Valley Junction, Ia., and while there read law in the office of Judge Pealon. During a period spent in the South he was admitted to the bar and engaged in law practice in Arkansas until 1876, when he returned to Indiana and engaged in practice and dealing in real estate at Plymouth until 1890, when he came to Findlay, where he has been an important business factor.

Mr. McKelvy is undoubtedly the largest real estate dealer in this city, making a specialty of Findlay property, although he is also interested elsewhere. He is president and half owner of the Roanoke Development Company which owns over 1,000 acres of land, a part of which is being developed for oil and other parts devoted to rice culture and the raising of livestock. Mr. McKelvy has a winter home on this property, which is situated at Roanoke, La. He has been the organizer of a large amount of city improvement—built the McKelvy Block on South Main Street, and owns the three-story brick block opposite, a 50-foot business lot opposite Argyle block, and owns additionally a part of the Currier Block together with residence and unimproved realty. Through his open and energetic business methods a large amount of outside capital has been brought here. His business in fire insurance is also a large item as he handles the risks of eleven of the leading companies. Such men of business enterprise are of value to any section.

Mr. McKelvy married Miss Dollie P. Hargitt, a member of a Southern Indiana family, and they have five children: Clara May, who is the wife of Charles E. Sprague, of Cleveland; Mattie L., who is the wife of H. G. David, of Findlay; Maud M., who is a teacher in the Findlay schools; Erdien H.; and Loy De Witt, who is a student in the Northern Ohio University at Ada. Mr. McKelvy is a member of the order of Ben Hur and the Masons.

FREDERICK LUDEN, a prosperous general farmer of Allen Township, and one of the early settlers of Hancock County, O., resides on a valuable farm of eighty-five acres, and was born September 15, 1830, in Baden, Ger-

many, a son of Frederick and Rosina (Shuck) Luden. The parents of our subject were both born and died in Germany, and his maternal great-grandfather Shuck, was a man of considerable wealth, and the manufacturer of fine fur garments.

Frederick Luden was reared in Baden, Germany, and there learned the French dyeing trade, making paints and coloring for calicoes and other materials. At the age of eighteen he came to America and located at Findlay, Hancock County, O., where he worked for two years in the old Swat Hotel. In 1851 he came to Allen Township and worked for five years for his uncle George Luden, who in 1841 came to this county from Wayne County, O., and located in a log cabin on the farm which our subject now owns. After leaving his uncle's home, Frederick Luden went to Wood County, O., where he was employed for two years in the largest hotel in the county. In 1855 he returned to Allen Township, Hancock County, and worked as a farm hand until 1861. He is now the owner of a fine farm of eighty-five acres, which is one of the most productive and highly cultivated in Allen Township, and which yields larger crops than most of the other farms in this locality.

Mr. Luden was joined in marriage with Agnes During, daughter of Rev. Matthew During, pastor of the German Lutheran Church of Findlay. Of their union were born seven sons: George, Paul, Frederick, Albert, Jacob, William and John, all of whom are stil living. Mrs. Luden passed out of this life in 1906. Mr. Luden is a member of the German Lutheran church of Findlay.

ERWIN ELLSWORTH EWING, ex-sheriff of Hancock County, O., a lifelong resident and for years prominently identified with oil production in this section, was born in Liberty Township, July 6, 1862. His parents were Jacob and Louisa (Cooper) Ewing.

Jacob Ewing, father of Erwin E., was born August 16, 1836, in Ashland County, O., and accompanied his parents to Hancock County in 1854. They were Jacob and Sophia (Mowery) Ewing, natives of Pennsylvania. They accompanied their families to Ashland County, O. where they were married and resided until they came to Hancock County and settled in Liberty Township. Grandfather Jacob Ewing purchased 160 acres at first and later acquired more land until he owned about 300 acres. He died on the farm now owned by Jeremiah Ewing, in 1866, at the age of sixty-eight years and was survived but a short time by his widow. They had seven children, namely: Cornelius, who lives at Findlay, married Elizabeth Insley; Julia Ann, who is the widow of Elijah Goudy, resides at Findlay; Philip, who lives in Pleasant Township, married Sophia Swartz; Rudolph, who is a prominent farmer in Pleasant Township, married Elizabeth McKinnis; David, who died during the Civil War; Jacob; and Elmira, who is the widow of Richard Boyd and is a resident of Findlay.

In 1859, Jacob Ewing was united in marriage with Louisa Cooper, who was born in Licking County, O., a daughter of Hiram Cooper, a farmer who resided in Wood County previous to coming to Hancock County, his death taking place in 1883, in Blanchard Township, at the age of eighty-one years. He was also a brick and stone mason and some of his work still may be seen in structures standing in the vicinity of McComb. He had a large family of children but the only one remaining is Miss Ellen Cooper.

ERWIN E. EWING

After his marriage, Jacob Ewing settled on the old home place and also acquired a tract of land in Liberty Township which he sold later, buying a farm in Pleasant Township, one mile south of McComb. Mr. Ewing, in 1888, exchanged this farm for eighty acres situated one-half mile east of Deweyville, which his son, H. C. Ewing, now occupies. He came to this farm in 1878 and died here in the same spring, being in his forty-second year. His widow survived until March 13, 1904, her age being sixty-eight years. Her mother, the maternal grandmother of Erwin E. Ewing, Mrs. Louisa (Mills) Cooper, who died August 9, 1901, survived many of her descendants, her age, at time of decease, being 100 years and sixteen days. Six children were born to Jacob and Louisa Ewing, namely: Ella, who resides at Deweyville, O.; Erwin E.; Hiram C., who lives on the old home place in Pleasant Township, married Metta Bolton, daughter of Michael Bolton; Earle, who resides with his sister at Deweyville and is engaged in farming; Charles, who owns and operates a farm near Deweyville; and Jennie, who died at the age of two years.

Erwin E. Ewing obtained his education in the public schools but it was interrupted on account of the death of his father when he was but sixteen years of age. Being the eldest son many responsibilities fell on his shoulders which, in spite of his youth, he bore in a manly and efficient way. He remained on the farm and was also interested for a number of years in the timber business, this region then being one where this industry was carried on with vigor at that time, valuable timbered land being purchasable at a very low figure. He bought 120 acres for less than $2.25 per acre and realized handsomely on the investment. He early became interested in politics and served as deputy sheriff under several officials, first under Sheriff Cusac, and in 1890, under Sheriff Bartoon. In 1896 he was elected sheriff on the Democratic ticket and was re-elected in 1898, serving out two terms and retiring from the office with the high regard of all law-abiding citizens. Mr. Ewing then turned his attention to the oil business and for five years has been operating extensively in Crawford and Clark Counties, drilling a number of wells and in partnership with his cousin, P. W. Ewing, securing numerous leases. His operations in oil have been carried on in Illinois. He still is a leading factor in county politics and for a number of years has been a delegate to important conventions of the Democratic party. He is deeply interested in the public issues of 1910 and is ready to prove his loyalty to Democratic principles. Being a man of fine address and courteous manner, he exerts an influence in many circles and makes many personal friends. His place of residence is Deweyville, O.

Mr. Ewing is identified fraternally with Lodge No. 227, F. & A. M. at Findlay; Findlay Commandery, No. 49; and Mystic Shrine at Toledo. He has also attained the 32nd degree in the order. He belongs also to the Elks and the Knights of Pythias, both at Findlay. He was reared in the Presbyterian faith.

N. J. KRAMER, a well known citizen of Rawson, O., who has lived in this pleasant town for the past sixteen years, still retains his farm of eighty acres, which lies in the northeast corner of Section 10, Union Township, Hancock County, O. He was born in Fairfield County, O., August 26, 1849, and is a son of John and Hannah (Boyd) Kramer.

John Kramer was a native of Fairfield

County but later acquired a farm in Franklin County and died there July 10, 1901. He was a well known farmer and respected citizen and for some twenty years held public office in Franklin County. His wife died in 1890.

N. J. Kramer was reared in Franklin County and for thirty years lived on his farm in Union Township, Hancock County. In 1860, he was married to Miss Susanna Fox, a daughter of David and Elizabeth (Bartoon) Fox, of Hancock County. David Fox was born in Pennsylvania and died in 1875. His widow survived until 1892, her death taking place near Rawson. Mr. and Mrs. Kramer have had six children, as follows: David E., who married Lois Keller, has had three children—Ines, Grace and Erma, deceased; J. H., who resides at Little Rock, Ark., married Elizabeth Phillips, of Tennessee, and they have one child, Morris; Hannah E., who is a twin of J. H., married Isaiah Foltz, of Hancock County, and they have two children—Coyl, and Edna; Willard, who married Cora McLish, of Union Township, has seven children—Mabel, Mary, Florence, John, Clara, Scott and Frances; Wilson P., a twin of Willard, married Lettie Clapp now deceased, and has four children—Walter, Wallace, Dwight and Myra, and Carrie D., whose untimely death occurred at Rawson in 1898, at the age of nineteen years. Mr. Kramer and family are members of the United Brethren church. For four years Mr. Kramer was a trustee of this church and for ten years officiated as its sexton.

WILLIAM N. YOST, M. D., physician and surgeon, who has been engaged in the practice of medicine at Findlay, O., since 1892, and in Hancock County since 1872, occupies a foremost position in his profession in this section of the state. Dr. Yost was born at Thornville, Perry County, O., April 14, 1837, and is a son of Peter and Elizabeth (Taylor) Yost.

Peter Yost was of German extraction. In the childhood of his son, William N., he bought a farm in Licking County, O., near the Perry County line, within three miles of Thornville, and it is still called the old Yost farm in that neighborhood.

William N. Yost was reared on the above named farm and went to the country schools during boyhood. Later he attended the Thornville schools and subsequently the Somerset Collegiate Institute, where he completed the course. For a number of years after this he taught school, being located in Thorn Township, in Perry County, and in Union Township, in Licking County, and for four years previous to the Civil War, he had charge of the Union school at Hebron, in the latter county. During a part of this period he was township clerk and all his spare time was given to the preliminary study of medicine under the direction of Dr. Black. In June, 1862, he entered the Federal army, becoming hospital steward of the 113th O. Vol. Inf., and continued with that regiment and in the same capacity until the close of the war.

When his military service was over, Dr. Yost entered the Miami Medical College at Cincinnati, where he was graduated in 1868, and he entered into practice at Houcktown, Hancock County, where he remained for five years and then moved to Mt. Blanchard and continued in practice there until he came to Findlay. Dr. Yost maintains his office at No. 322½ South Main Street. He is a member of the Hancok County, the Northwestern and the Ohio State Medical Societies.

Dr. Yost married Miss Rebecca Stewart, a

daughter of that brave soldier, Major James Stewart, of Licking County, O., who served through the Civil War. Dr. and Mrs. Yost have had five children: Minnie L., who is the principal of the Firman School at Findlay; Margaret, who died in 1902, was the wife of Harry George; Jessie Gertrude; Charles C., who is bookkeeper for the Logan Gas Company; and Clarence E., who is secretary of the Findlay Casket Company. Dr. Yost served on the Pension Board for eight years during the Cleveland administration. Dr. Yost is a member of all branches of Odd Fellowship and has served as a representative to the Grand Lodge. He is identified also with the Masonic fraternity and the B. P. O. E., and belongs to the G. A. R.

LEVI SEARFOSS, who owns forty-three acres of richly cultivated land situated in Marion Township, Hancock County, O., devotes this largely to potatoes and berries, finding truck farming very profitable. He was born in a log house standing on his father's old farm, in Marion Township, January 2, 1845, and his parents were Jacob and Eliza (Garster) Searfoss.

Jacob Searfoss was born and reared in Pickaway County, O., and in 1840 occurred his first marriage. He and wife came immediately to Hancock County and settled on the farm in Marion Township where H. H. Johnston now lives. He entered eighty acres of heavily wooded land and in the log cabin he built there passed his life. His first wife died in 1848, leaving three children: Levi; Mary Ann, who is now deceased, who was the wife of Burtis Yocum; and Henry, who lives in Indiana. Jacob Searfoss then married Jane Powell, who is also deceased, and they had one daughter: Margaret Jane, who is the wife of S. Rinkhammer, of Marion Township.

Levi Searfoss has spent his entire life in Marion Township with the exception of eighteen months passed in Illinois. He attended school while small, but as soon as able began to help in the clearing of the farm. He then learned the carpenter trade and followed the same for twenty-five years, spending twelve of these in the factory of Shull & Company. He built his attractive nine-room frame house into which he introduced many comfortable devices.

Mr. Searfoss was married the first time to Miss Samantha J. Alspach. His second marriage was to Mrs. Sarah M. (Jacobs) Switzer, widow of Jacob Switzer and daughter of James Jacobs. The children, four in number, were born to the first marriage. Harry married Mollie Jacobs and they live at Columbus and have two children—Florence and Etna. Eliza is the widow of Nelson Jacobs and they had three children—Ralph, Eva and Mamie, and they reside with Mr. and Mrs. Searfoss. Elizabeth and Flora also reside at home. No children have been born to the second marriage. The family belongs to the United Brethren church. In politics, Mr. Searfoss is a Democrat and at times he has served as road supervisor and school director. He is identified with the order of Odd Fellows at Findlay.

L. S. WOODS, M. D., who enjoys the distinction of being the oldest resident physician of Rawson, O., and is a valued and honored member of the Northwestern Ohio and the Hancock County Medical Societies, has been an interested spectator of the growth and development of the pleasant town in which he chose his home, when

starting out on his professional career. Dr. Woods was born November 3, 1853, in Madison Township, Hancock County, O., a son of James and Hannah (Hatcher) Woods.

James Woods was born November 16, 1810, in Columbiana County, O., and his wife was born in Stark County, O., July 5, 1815. They were married in 1833, settled in Delaware Township, Hancock County, in 1837, but in 1840 moved to Madison Township, which remained the old home place during the lives of the parents and one to which the children often tenderly and reverently return in thought. James Woods lived into extreme old age, surviving his wife for many years, her death having taken place in 1894. Of their eight children, Dr. L. S. Woods was the youngest born.

From his boyhood, L. S. Woods cherished an ambition to become a physician. When the proper age was attained he was given an opportunity to study medicine under his older brother, Dr. Thomas E. Woods and made such rapid progress that in three years time he was adequately prepared to enter the College of Physicians and Surgeons at Baltimore, Md. There he was creditably graduated on March 17, 1887. He opened an office at Rawson and has become so closely identified with all that pertains to the progress and well being of this town that his name is inseparably connected with much that is important here. His interest is reciprocated and he is not only valued for his professional skill and business judgment and public spirit, but is esteemed for his purely personal qualities.

Dr. Woods was married January 1, 1884, to Miss Inez E. Kelly, a daughter of George J. and Caroline Kelly, who were early settlers in this section. Dr. and Mrs. Woods have three children: Leo Mozelle, Scott K. and Hannah K. Dr. Woods is prominently identified with both the Masons and Odd Fellows. He is a Republican in his political sentiments.

JESSE W. MONTGOMERY, chairman of the Board of County Commissioners of Hancock County, O., and residing in Orange Township, where he owns 340 acres, was born on the farm on which he lives, March 15, 1857, and is a son of John and Eleanor (McLain) Montgomery. The mother of Mr. Montgomery died in 1905, but the father survives.

Jesse W. Montgomery was reared on the home farm and his education was secured in the country schools. He has devoted himself to agricultural pursuits and has engaged extensively and successfully in general farming and stock raising. He has taken an active and intelligent interest in politics ever since attaining his majority and has long enjoyed the confidence of his fellow citizens. He served as treasurer of Orange Township for fourteen years and is now serving in his second term as county commissioner, first assuming official duties September 20, 1906, and entering upon his second term in September, 1909. In his political views he is a Democrat.

Mr. Montgomery married Miss Mary R. Mitsch, a daughter of John Mitsch, who was born in Germany and came to Wyandot County, O., when a boy. He was accidentally killed October 22, 1909, near his home at Bluffton, Allen County, an automobile causing his horse to run away. Mrs. Montgomery was born and reared in Wyan-

dot County. Mr. and Mrs. Montgomery have eight children: John, Walter, Lida, Frank, Edgar, Helen, Ivan and an infant. Mr. Montgomery is a member of the order of Odd Fellows.

A. M. AGIN, a representative citizen of Van Buren Township, Hancock County, O., where he carries on farming on sixty acres of land and manages eighty more, was born in Orange Township, September 1, 1860, and is a son of William Agin.

William Agin was born in Fayette County, Pa. His father died when he was two years old and his mother in his fourteenth year. He came to Trumbull County, O., and worked at the tanning business and was married there the first time and one child was born to him. In 1836 he moved to Hancock County and entered 160 acres of land in Orange Township. In 1837 he was married to his second wife in Trumbull County and they had five children. He was married the third time to Mary (Montgomery) Thompson, the widow of William Thompson, and five sons and two daughters were born to this union. The family home remained in Orange Township, where the father died in 1891 and the mother in May, 1907. They were members of the German Reformed church and their burial was in the Hassam Cemetery. William Agin was a well known man and carried on his business enterprises honestly and successfully. In earlier years he built a tannery on his farm in Orange Township and conducted it together with his farm work but subsequently rented the tannery to a nephew.

A. M. Agin attended the public schools in Orange Township and later the Ohio Normal University at Ada, after which he taught school for some time. After his marriage he settled first on a farm on the township line between Van Buren and Orange Townships and came from there to his present farm in 1907. He has done a large amount of clearing on his property and has all but twelve acres under tillage on the sixty-acre tract. His comfortable and substantial buildings have been erected since he came to the place.

Mr. Agin was married in April, 1884, to Miss Annie E. Stonehill, a daughter of Jacob and Elmira (Miller) Stonehill. Jacob Stonehill, who died in 1907, established himself in the undertaking business in 1859 and was one of the earliest and became one of the best known funeral directors in all this section. Calls came to him from long distances, even as far as Logan County, and it is said that he buried as many as 1,100 bodies. He sold out to O. L. Ream, of Ada, O. He was a Republican in politics but never took any very active part in public affairs.

Mr. and Mrs. Agin have two daughters: Fairie M. and Maude Esther. The former is a very accomplished lady. She is a graduate of the Ohio Northern University at Ada and has taught piano music for six years. Her natural talent was developed so young that her parents had her given instruction in music when she was not more than six years old. The second daughter is in school. Mr. Agin and family are members of the Baptist church, in which he is very active and teaches the Bible Class in the Sunday-school. Like his late father he is a Republican. He has never desired political office but for six years consented to

serve as appraiser for the Mutual Insurance Company.

HARRISON W. STOKER, of the firm of Stoker Bros., dealers in lumber, lath and shingles, who conduct a planing mill at McComb, O., was born in Allen Township, Hancock County, O., June 25, 1860, and is a son of Tunis A. and Eve (Mitchell) Stoker.

Tunis Stoker was born in Fairfield County, O., and was nine years old when he accompanied his parents, Jacob and Mary Stoker, to Hancock County, prior to 1835. Jacob Stoker bought a farm of 160 acres in Findlay Township, which he subsequently cleared and he died there about the time of the Civil War, his wife dying many years afterward. Of their five sons and three daughters, but one son is living. Cyrus, David and Darius all served in the War of the Rebellion, as members of Co. F, 21st O. Vol. Inf. Cyrus was killed at the battle of Stone River. David died of wounds received nine days afterward. Darius survived until the fall of 1908 although he had carried a bullet in his body all the intervening years. Of the other members of the family W. C. resides near Findlay and is a farmer. Mary Jane died unmarried. Dicey married Chrisley Grauel and died at Findlay. Athelinda died in 1907, in Portage Township and was the wife of John Hedges.

The maternal grandparents of Harrison W. Stoker were George and Rachel Mitchell, who came to Hancock County in 1832 and in the same year purchased a farm in Portage Township. They lived in their traveling wagon until they could cut down trees and clear a large enough space upon which to build their log cabin. They lived into extreme old age, reaching about ninety-one years. They had twelve children, those who survived infancy being as follows: Jacob, who died at Findlay, in 1907, had served as a soldier in the Civil War, in Co. F. 21st O. Vol. Inf.; George, who is a farmer, lives in Allen Township; Nancy, who is the wife of Eli King, lives in Portage Township; Rachel, who is the wife of Josiah Moore, lives in Pleasant Township; Betsey, who is deceased, was the wife of Henry Wright, of McComb; and Isabella and Mary Jane, both of whom are deceased, and Eve, the mother of Mr. Stoker, who died in 1883. Tunis Stoker died in May, 1910, in his seventy-eighth year.

Two sons and one daughter were born to Tunis Stoker and wife: Harrison W., George M. and Elizabeth. The latter married Eli Alexander and they reside in North Findlay. He was born in Richland County but was reared at Findlay and now fills the position of department foreman of the Findlay Clay Pottery Works. They have the following children: Jennie, Eve, George, Isabella, Ruth, Harold and Dora.

Harrison W. Stoker attended the public schools of Findlay Township and then learned the carpenter trade and worked at this at Findlay and Rawson and spent one summer in Kansas. In 1883 he came to McComb and entered into the furniture and undertaking business, with Wright & Griffin, and continued four years, when he resumed work at his trade until he started his present business. For the first two years he was alone and then his brother, George M. Stoker, joined him and they have developed

CALVIN D. TODD, M. D.

an extensive business and are now leaders in contracting and building at McComb.

In 1889, Harrison W. Stoker was married to Miss Maroa Mackey, a daughter of William Mackey, of Pleasant Township. They have two sons: William T., who is a lineman with the telephone company at McComb; and Clinton, who has not completed his education.

George M. Stoker, the other member of the firm of Stoker Bros., also learned the carpenter trade after his school days were over. He was married in 1866, to Miss Lillie Stout, a daughter of Madison Stout, of McComb, and they have two children, Fred and Lena.

The Stoker Bros. are not only associated as a firm but they agree politically and are identified with the same fraternal organizations. They both are members of the Masonic lodge at Deschler, the Odd Fellows and the order of Ben Hur, at McComb. They are Democrats in politics and Harrison W. Stoker for nine years was fire chief of the department at McComb and for fifteen years has been a member of the town council. They were reared in the Methodist faith.

WILLIAM J. FISCUS, tinner, roofer and sheet metal worker, at Findlay, O., has carried on his business at his present location, No. 116 North Main Street, since January 1, 1894, and controls a large amount of the best trade in his line. He was born in a village in Lucas County, O., not far distant from Toledo, bearing the name of Whitehouse, August 11, 1864, and is a son of Peter and Barbara Fiscus. They are both deceased, the father passing away when the son was about ten years old. The mother survived until in her eighty-third year and died in 1905, in Wood County, O.

William J. Fiscus was reared at Whitehouse and attended the village schools and when fifteen years old he went to Fostoria and there learned his trade with his brother-in-law, J. M. Schatzel. In March, 1883, he came to Findlay and worked at the tinning and roofing business until ready to embark in the same for himself. He has prospered and for some years has been contracting in tin, slate, roofing of all kinds, gravel, etc., and keeps four men constantly employed. He did the substantial work on the Argyle Block, the Marvin Block, the Lutheran church and other large structures and also on some of the city's finest residences.

Mr. Fiscus was married to Miss Emma Sterner, at Findlay, O., who was born in Hancock County and is a daughter of the late E. P. Sterner. Mr. Sterner was one of the old settlers in this section and was a veteran of the Civil War. Mr. and Mrs. Fiscus have two children: Helen and Edna. Mr. Fiscus is not active in politics, but he fraternally belongs to Lodge No 400, Knights of Pythias.

CALVIN D. TODD, M. D., who is successfully engaged in the practice of medicine at McComb, O., and is serving in the office of coroner of Hancock County, was born at McComb, January 27, 1878, and is a son of William H. and Eliza (Gault) Todd.

William H. Todd was born in 1837 and died in 1906. He was a son of Benjamin Todd, who was a soldier in the War of 1812 and afterward came to Hancock County. Benjamin Todd owned the land on which McComb now stands. William H. Todd was a cabinetmaker and undertaker for a number of years. He married Eliza Gault, who died in 1896

She was a daughter of Moses and Rachel Gault, who settled one mile west of McComb, prior to the laying out of the town by Benjamin Todd. The two families were subsequently connected by marriage and they were leaders in many of the early enterprises of this section, and were founders of the Church of God in this vicinity. Among the children of Benjamin Todd and wife were: William H.; Elisha, who is a venerable resident of McComb, being now in his eighty-seventh year; Benjamin, who lives in Kansas; and George, who died in Iowa, in advanced age.

To William H. Todd and wife there were born five sons and three daughters, as follows: Idona, who is the wife of John C. Buto, of Pleasant township, Hancock County; Melville, who is a merchant at Goshen, Ind.; Edward L., who is engaged in growing small fruits, at Viola, Del.; Jennie, who is the wife of H. C. Fry, of Blanchard Township, Hancock County; Calvin D.; Oliver L., who is connected with the McElhenny grain elevator at McComb; James H., who is a farmer in Pleasant Township; and Dora, who resides at home with her brother, Calvin D. Todd.

From the public schools of McComb, Calvin D. Todd entered the Normal School and for seven years afterward engaged in teaching school, a profession for which he seemed well adapted although it was not the one of his cherished desire. In 1903 he entered the Toledo Medical College and graduated in the class of 1907, locating immediately in his old home, McComb, where he has built up a substantial practice. In 1908 he was elected county coroner on the Democratic ticket and in the fulfilling of its duties, Dr. Todd has shown care, judgment and discrimination. He is a member of the county and Ohio State Medical Associations and also of the American Medical Association. He is identified fraternally with McComb Lodge No. 354, Odd Fellows; and with Camp No. 7470, Modern Woodmen of America. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

JOHN W. BAKER, postmaster at Rawson, O., and the owner of a valuable farm in Union Township, Hancock County, was born September 12, 1855, one-half mile south of Rawson, and is a son of Nathan E. and Elenore (Oman) Baker.

Nathan E. Baker was born in Lorain County, O., and was brought to Hancock County by his father, Joseph Baker, who was an early settler in Union Township. Nathan E. Baker followed farming all through his active life and died in 1900 at the age of seventy-seven years. He married Elenore Oman, who was born in Pennsylvania and was a daughter of Joseph Oman, who was one of Eagle Township's early settlers. She died in 1890, at the age of sixty-seven years. They were well known and highly respected people and are remembered in great kindness by those with whom their lives were spent.

John W. Baker attended the country schools and afterward gave his father assistance on the farm. In 1891 he was appointed assistant postmaster of the Rawson office, and in 1899, received his commission as postmaster and has made a very satisfactory official.

Mr. Baker has been a member of the Masonic Lodge at Rawson for the past fifteen years, and has held every official position in this lodge except Master, and at present is serving as its treasurer. Since 1880 he has also been identified with the Knights of Pythias at Rawson and has likewise been an official of

this organization. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. Baker has never married.

WILLIAM MANECKE, president of the Union National Bank of Fostoria, O., and owner of 600 acres of land in Hancock County, resides in a handsome residence that he erected in 1896, in Section 3, Washington Township. He was born in Philadelphia County, Pa., November 4, 1835, and is a son of Henry and Christina (Markley) Manecke.

Henry Manecke was born in Mecklenburg, Germany, where he had social and educational advantages and graduated from a German institution of learning. His family was one of importance and he was given a Government position, being made an inspector of farms. About 1828 he came to America and located in Philadelphia County, Pa., where he was interested in a sugar refinery. Several years later he moved to Stark County, O., where he rented a farm and four years afterward bought a farm in Section 10, Washington Township, Hancock County. This was about 1843 and at that time this whole county was yet heavily timbered. He built a log cabin in the forest and went to work clearing his land, apparently just as well satisfied notwithstanding his early advantages, as was any other pioneer. Straggling Indians often passed through the forests and game was still plentiful. He remained here until his death which occurred December 23, 1861. He married Christina Markley, who was born in Wittenberg, Germany, and came to America with her parents. She survived her husband some five years, her death taking place January 9, 1866. They had six children, namely: William Peter, who lives in Washington Township; Emma, who is the wife of Andrew Bowman, of Decatur, Ill.; Harmon, who lives in Colorado; Thomas J., who lives in Illinois; Frederick, who resides at Fostoria; and Albert, whose home is in Illinois.

William Manecke was quite young when his parents moved to Hancock County and as he grew up he assisted his father to clear the farm. His book knowledge was secured in the district schools and all his home influences were helpful. He followed general farming and took personal charge of the work as long as he continued actively interested and when he retired he turned his responsibilities over to his sons who, in the meanwhile, had grown into capable and reliable young men. He was one of the organizers of the Union National Bank at Fostoria, of which he is president. It operates with a capital of $100,000, and has a firm standing. E. W. Allen is vice-president and George A. Snyder is cashier. During the Civil War, Mr. Manecke was a patriotic citizen. In 1862 he enlisted in Co. K, 115th O. Vol. Inf., under Capt. A. R. Holland, and served faithfully until he was honorably discharged May 22, 1865. He took part in a number of sharp engagements and was one of the brave soldiers to march to the sea under Gen. Sherman, and on this march in December, 1864, he was wounded by the enemy and carried a minie-ball in his thigh for ten months and ten days. Through his bravery he was promoted to be sergeant of his company. He is a member of the G. A. R. Post at Fostoria.

In April, 1868, Mr. Manecke was married to Miss Susan A. Ernest, a daughter of Jacob Ernest. She died after the birth of their daughter, Della, who grew to womanhood and married Jacob D. Groth. Mrs. Groth died in South Dakota, and is survived by two children: Ruth and Reeve. On May 16, 1871, Mr. Ma-

necke was married to Caroline C. Stout and the following children were born to them: Henry R., who died in November, 1907; Gilbert, who is an attorney at law, graduated from the Ohio State University at Columbus, in 1897; Thomas J., who married Anna Stauffer and they have two children—Florence and Leona; Rosa, who married Leila Ecker and they have two children—Helen and William; James F., who married Montana McDonald; Mrs. A. J. Crouse, who lives at Buffalo, N. Y., and Mae, who lives at home. Mr. Manecke is a member of the German Reformed church. He is one of Washington Township's prominent and representative men.

ROBERT W. CLOUD, justice of the peace in Portage Township, Hancock County, O., and a leading citizen of this section, resides on a small farm of three acres here and owns a farm of eighty acres situated in Paulding County, O. He was born at Columbus, O., September 24, 1834, and is a son of Samuel P. and Jane (Van Pelt) Cloud.

The father of Mr. Cloud was at one time a man of ample fortune, a part of which he earned by selling produce through the country. Later he owned and operated a hotel at Cincinnati, but subsequently was reduced almost to poverty through signing a bail bond for a friend which entailed the loss of $7,000, all at one time. Other men have done the same thing and have been equally unfortunate. Through this domestic calamity, Robert W. Cloud was separated from his kindred and was reared by strangers in Clermont County, until he was twenty-one years old. He then went back to Columbus, and worked there for seven years for an uncle, in a saw mill, and learned the lumber business.

In Franklin County, O., Mr. Cloud was married to Miss Catherine Miller, a daughter of a German farmer, Caspar Miller, and six children were born to them, namely: Robert Ethelbert, who died in May, 1901, leaving a family of three children, lived on a farm of 100 acres which his father formerly owned; Milan, who died in childhood; Warden W., who lives on the Paulding County farm, married there and has two children; Enoch, who lives with his family in Montana; Isolla, who married Franklin Huber, has one child, May, and they live at North Baltimore; and Alwilda Cretora, who married Perry Smith and they have two children and reside at North Baltimore.

Mr. Cloud is now one of Portage Township's substantial men, but in the building of his fortunes he has had little assistance. He has been a fireman on a railroad, a soldier, a farmer and a lumberman and has also filled public offices with the utmost efficiency. He is a veteran of the Civil War and has two honorable discharges, having served for three months in Co. G, 133rd O. Vol. Inf., and three months in a cavalry regiment, and is a member of the G. A. R. Post at McComb. Prior to coming to Hancock County and locating at Findlay, in 1869, he had spent some time and capital seeking a suitable location in Michigan, but not finding it came back to Ohio. At that time he had just $9.60 in cash, with a wife and four children depending upon him. He engaged in teaming as the first employment that offered and then went to work in a saw mill which stood on his present farm and later bought a half interest and subsequently the mill which he conducted for twenty-one years. He also acquired a farm of 100 acres which he retained until 1910, when he sold all but the three

acres surrounding his residence. In politics he is a Republican and while living in Franklin County served seven years as constable. He was elected justice of the peace in Portage Township and has served in this office since January 1, 1910. He has also been township supervisor. He is identified fraternally with the Knights of Pythias.

HARRY G. DAVID, who does a large coal, transfer and storage business at Findlay, O., started here in this line in 1904, having F. D. Howe as a partner from then until July, 1909, when he bought the partner's interest and has been alone ever since. Mr. David was born at Cleveland, O., in 1875, and is a son of W. L. David, Sr.

The father of Mr. David died at Findlay in 1907. He early became connected with the hardware line of the oil business and continued through the oil fields of Pennsylvania until 1890, when he came to Findlay and up to the time of his death, was connected with the Jareeki Oil Well Manufacturing Supply Company.

Harry G. David was but a boy when the family moved from Butler, Pa., to Findlay, O., and later, for four years, he was connected with the oil industry, having leases in Cass Township, Hancock County, where he worked as a field foreman. Prior to accepting this position, however, he had learned the machinist trade, one that he followed for nine years. In 1904 he saw a good business opening in his present line at Findlay and took advantage of it and has greatly prospered. His coal office and yards are located at No. 418 East Lincoln Street, while his transfer and storage quarters are in the rear of No. 118 South Cory Street. He has a fine equipment, owning five large furniture vans, seven drays for heavy hauling, four coal and four road wagons, with strong teams, and gives steady employment to twenty-five men.

Mr. David married Miss Martha McKelvey, who is a daughter of S. L. McKelvey, a prominent real estate dealer, of Findlay, and they have one child, Francis Lee David. Mr. David is a member of the Knights of Pythias, B. P. O. E., and also of the Protected Home Circle.

GEORGE A. MITCHELL, who is engaged in general farming and stock raising on a tract of eighty acres in Allen Township, has resided on his present farm since 1870, and is the owner of two other farms in Portage Township, Hancock County, O., the three farms aggregating a total of 220 acres. He was born April 3, 1849, on a farm in Portage Township, Hancock County, O., and is a son of George and Rachel (Switzer) Mitchell.

George Mitchell was a native of Belmont County, O., and his wife of Richland County, O. They were married in Richland County, and immediately afterward came to Hancock County, O., and located on a tract of timberland in Portage Township. Here they continued to reside the remainder of their lives, he clearing the land and placing it in a state of cultivation. George Mitchell lived to the advanced age of ninety years, and his wife to the age of eighty-six years.

George A. Mitchell was reared in Portage Township, his father's farm being the scene of his boyhood activities. He has always followed farming, and in 1870, after his marriage, settled on his present farm of eighty acres, which is located in Section 35, Allen Township, lying along the road which separates Allen and Port-

age Townships. Here he has made many improvements, erecting a fine large frame house and barn, and other necessary buildings, and carries on farming in a general way, in connection with stock raising.

Mr. Mitchell was united in marriage with Abigail Cusac, who was born and reared in Portage Township, a daughter of John and Nancy (Bell) Cusac, and of their union have been born two sons: Homer, who resides on one of our subject's farms in Portage Township, married Stella Moorehead and has two children, Charles and Gertrude; and Harry, who lives on his father's other farm in Portage Township, married Nellie Peabody, and has two daughters—Gladys and Grace. Mr. Mitchell is a member of the Blanchard Presbyterian church.

LEVI GORBY, a well known citizen of Hancock County, O., is the owner of three farms, aggregating 140 acres, land being thus divided: eighty acres, on which he lives, in Section 18, Portage Township; forty acres, in Section 7, Eagle Township; and twenty acres in Section 13, Pleasant Township. He was born on a farm in Eagle Township, November 19, 1856, and is a son of Jacob and Maria (Frederickson) Gorby. Jacob Gorby was born in Chester County, Pa., and came to Hancock County as a child with his sister. He grew to manhood here and married Maria Frederickson, who died in 1858. Jacob Gorby spent the greater part of his life in Eagle Township, where he followed farming, but his death took place at Rawson.

Levi Gorby followed the example of his father and has been a farmer ever since reaching the age of responsibility. For six years after his first marriage he remained in Blanchard Township on rented land and then moved to the homsetead in Eagle Township. He spent fourteen years in that township and came to his present farm in Portage Township in March, 1898.

Mr. Gorby was married first to Miss Flora Powell, who died in Eagle Township. They had three children: Cora, deceased, who was the wife of Charles W. Gorrell and is survived by two children—Ruby and Carl; Estella, who is the wife of W. J. Swinehart, and has one child, Harold; and Viola, who died aged 4 years. In January, 1891, Mr. Gorby was married to his present wife, who was Miss Celesta Bond, a daughter of Jesse Bond, and they have two children, Erma and Earl DeLoss. Mr. and Mrs. Gorby are members of the Thomas Methodist Episcopal church, in which he is a class leader, steward and trustee and also a teacher in the Sabbath-school. In the same year that Mr. Gorby moved to Portage Township he was elected township treasurer and he served in that office until January 1, 1910. He has also been a member of the school board and in every way has shown the qualities of good citizenship. He is identified with the order of Maccabees.

DAVID DICK, whose valuable farm of 240 acres lies in Washington Township, in Section 21, divided by the general highway, is one of Hancock County's substantial citizens and representative men. He was born on his father's farm in Richland County, O., May 28, 1836, and is a son of George and Sarah (Nickles) Dick.

George Dick was born in Pennsylvania and was a son of Simon Dick, who was a

native of Germany. The latter came to America and settled in Pennsylvania where he married and reared a large family. Of these George was one of the younger sons. He remained on the Pennsylvania farm until after his marriage and the birth of three children, and then moved to Wayne County, O., where he rented a farm and moved from there to Stark County where he also rented land, after which he moved to Richland County and there bought ninety acres of land and resided on it into old age, being aged ninety-one years at the time of death. His wife had passed away earlier, when aged eighty-six years. The record of their children is as follows: Eliza became the wife of William Boyd and both are deceased. Josiah is deceased. Harmon lives in Shelby, O. Levi, George and Jacob, are all deceased. Sarah Ann married Samuel Smith and is now deceased. Mary Ann is also deceased. David and Hiram were twins and the latter is deceased. Susann, now deceased, was the wife of Samuel Turpet.

David Dick grew up on the home farm and he easily recalls the old schoolhouse with its primitve accommodations. He remembers also that he and his seat-mate built their own desk. From boyhood he was accustomed to farm work and after he was married he continued to work on the home farm for his father for four years and then came to Hancock County, where he purchased his first land, a tract of fifty-three acres situated one mile east of his present farm, the former owner being H. Hunt. To this he added fifteen acres but subsequently sold out and went back to Richland County, where he bought 165 acres. That he subsequently traded for his present farm, with Josiah Dick, this being in 1876. A log house then stood on the place but Mr. Dick built all the buildings now standing, cleared up about thirty acres and put it under cultivation with the remainder of the land, had it all thoroughly tiled and for years has successfully followed general farming. He is one of the stockholders in the bank at Arcadia, O.

On March 11, 1862, Mr. Dick was married to Miss Barbara Weiser, a daughter of Adam and Susan (Bender) Weiser. The father was born in Dauphin County, Pa., and the mother in Cumberland County, and both came to Ohio with their parents, Mrs. Weiser being then eleven years of age. Her parents settled near Mansfield, O., and it is said that when they went to take possession of the cabin on the farm, a deer ran out of it, the wild creature having taken shelter there. Until they could get their own house comfortable they lived with a Mr. Weiler, one of the well known pioneers. The Weiser family entered 160 acres of land in Richland County, near Shelby. Mrs. Dick is one of a family of twelve children, namely: Sarah Jane, who died at the age of five years; Barbara, who is the wife of Mr. Dick; John, who is deceased; Harriet, who died when aged sixteen years; Jacob, who lives in Williams County, O.; Adam, who is on the old home farm in Richland County; William, who lives at Fostoria; Alice, who is the wife of William Sherman of Fostoria; Mary, who is the wife of George Suter, an undertaker at Shelby, O., and two who died in infancy.

Mr. and Mrs. Dick have four children: George Wesley, Cora, Adam and Charles

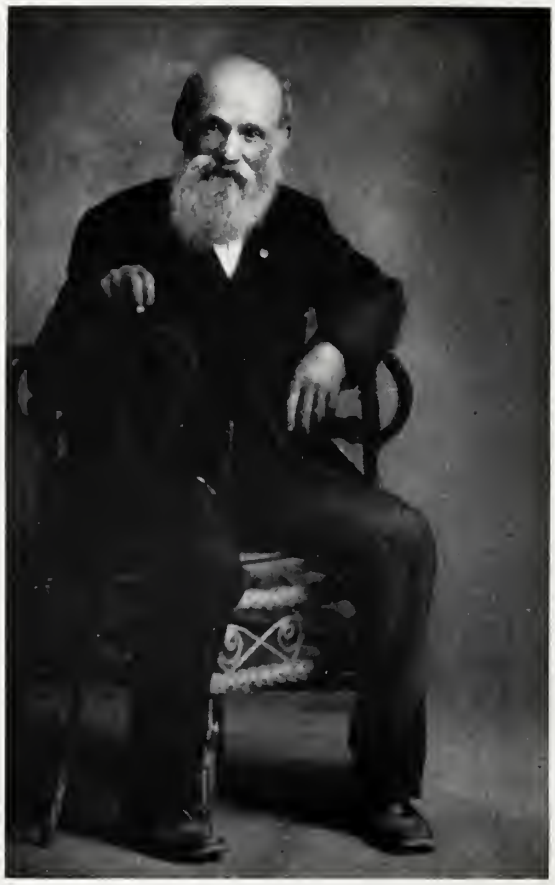
F. George Wesley Dick is secretary of the Mutual Insurance Company and secretary of the bank at Arcadia, of which he was one of the organizers and has a half interest in a threshing business. He married Jessie Taylor and they have six children. Their eldest daughter, Ethel, took a Normal School course and is now teaching in the home district where her father taught several terms. Lulu and Nellie are both students in the Arcadia High School, while John E., Anna and Bessie H., are at home. Cora, the only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dick, is the wife of Alvin Davison and they reside at Fostoria. Having no children of their own, they have adopted a son and he has been theirs from the age of seven weeks. Adam Dick, who owns a half interest in the threshing business, resides in a part of his father's house and operates the home farm. He married Nannie Wyant. Charles F. Dick, the youngest son, is also in the threshing business and lives in Washington Township. He married Nellie Need. The Dicks are identified with the Democratic party.

ARTHUR N. McNEAL, who is engaged in farming and stock raising on a tract of eighty acres which his wife owns, located about five miles south of Findlay on the Washington road, in Section 3, Eagle Township, Hancock County, O., is also engaged in road contracting, and was born on his present farm August 21, 1848, a son of John Parks and Catherine (Swisher) McNeal.

John P. McNeal, a native of Pennsylvania, came to Hancock County in 1862 and entered a tract of eighty acres in Eagle Township, from the government. He lived upon and farmed this land until within a few years of his death, when he removed to Findlay, O., where he lived in retirement until the time of his decease, October 22, 1890. His wife, who in maiden life was Catherine Swisher, was also a native of Pennsylvania and died on the farm in Eagle Township in 1870.

Arthur N. McNeal has spent his entire life on his present farm, and attended the local schools of Eagle Township. He has always followed farming in a general way, and raises considerable stock, including hogs, sheep, cattle, horses, etc., but devotes most of his time to road contracting and has built a great many of the best turn pike roads in the county. He has made extensive improvements on the farm in the way of tiling, ditching, etc., and in 1906 erected a large frame residence.

In 1869 Mr. McNeal was joined in marriage with Elizabeth Briggs, who is a daughter of Raymond and Margaret Briggs, both natives of Pennsylvania. Mrs. McNeal was but six years old at the time of the death of her father, who was a sailor, and she afterwards came to Hancock County with her mother, who located at Findlay. Four children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. McNeal, namely: John H.; Grace E., who married John Ecker, who comes of one of the prominent families of Hancock County; Blanche M., who is the wife of Lorison Stanfield, who comes of a well known family of Wood County, and they have one son, Everett J.; and Cora Dell, who died at the age of three years, nine months and eleven days.



WILLIAM JORDAN

WILLIAM JORDAN, one of the honored old soldiers of the Civil War, one of the first to enter the service of his country when her defenders were summoned in 1861 and only leaving after more than three years of hardship had brought on serious disabilities, is one of the best known and most esteemed residents of Washington Township, Hancock County, O. His comfortable frame residence stands on his little farm of fourteen acres, not far from the village of Arcadia. He was born in Tuscarawas County, O., January 19, 1833, and his parents were Charles E. and Margaret (Moore) Jordan.

Charles E. Jordan was born near Stillwater on the Ohio River when this great commonwealth was yet a territory. The names of his parents have not been preserved but when he was small they moved down the river below Wheeling and there he grew to manhood and learned the shoemaking trade. He worked there at his trade and also engaged to some extent in farming and there married Margaret Moore, the daughter of a neighbor. Some time later they moved to Tuscarawas County, O., settling in the woods six miles southeast of New Philadelphia and lived there until the fall of 1835 when they moved to Hancock County. The father entered 160 acres of Government land at that time and later 160 more lying east of his first farm. No clearing or improving of any kind had yet been done, the land lying as a virgin wilderness and therefore the family had to live in the wagon until the father could clear a site and then erect his log cabin. At that time there was plenty of game in the forest, a few wild hogs running through the underbrush and fattening on the nuts from the trees, while deer and wild turkey were not difficult to shoot. Thus, in those early days, there was no lack of food or fuel, nor of shelter, the three great necessities which each year in modern life and civilized communities are the most difficult for the poor man to procure.

Charles E. Jordan in the course of time cleared up his land and enjoyed the result of his many years of hard work. Before his death he retired to Findlay and there he passed away in old age. His first wife died on the farm and he later married a widow by the name of Mrs. Winders. She had several children born to her first marriage but none to the second. To Charles E. and Margaret Jordan the following children were born: Daniel, Martha, William, John M., Nancy Jane, James, Charles Wesley, Mary and Robert D. Of the above family five sons were in the Civil War. William served in the 49th Ohio. John M. was in the 57th Ohio, and is deceased. James, who was killed May 27, 1864, at the battle of Peach Tree Creek, was a member of the 49th O. Vol. Inf. Charles Wesley, who is now deceased, served as a member of the 57th O. Vol. Inf. Robert D. was also a member of the 57th Ohio. Nancy Jane is the wife of Michael Steelsmith. Martha and Mary are both deceased.

William Jordan recalls many events of his childhood in this section but he was too young to remember the wagon journey here from Tuscarawas County. He remembers his childish interest in the forming and drilling of the local militia which took place on his present farm. As soon as he grew old enough he had farm tasks to perform, his school attendance not exceeding two months in the year. When he reached the age of sixteen years he decided to learn a self-supporting trade and being somewhat accustomed to leather on account of his father's shoemaking business, he concluded to also learn a leather trade, hence served an

apprenticeship with Capt. John Poorman, a well known saddle and harness maker at Tiffin, O., and he followed this trade until the outbreak of the Civil War, which found him at Cedar Rapids, Ia., where he had been with G. W. Westlake for six years.

Mr. Jordan was one of the first volunteers to offer himself as a private in the First Ia. Vol. Inf., but was not accepted on account of being lacking in required height for that regiment. He then returned to Ohio and enlisted in Co. A, 49th O. Vol. Inf., under Col. William Gibson and he continued in the service for three years, three months and thirteen days, during this time participating in the long and weary marches and innumerable skirmishes and such notable battles as Shiloh, Stone River, Chickamauga, Missionary Ridge and Nashville. He was then attacked with measles and was made so seriously ill that he was confined for some eight months in different hospitals and very nearly lost his eyesight. After receiving his honorable discharge, Mr. Jordan returned to Hancock County and again visited Iowa and possibly might have remained there, finding excellent business prospects in buying and selling land, but the brisk western wind affected his eyes to such an extent that he decided it to be the part of wisdom to return to Ohio.

After his return to Hancock County, Mr. Jordan bought 160 acres of land in Cass Township and kept adding farm after farm until he had taxes to pay on 288 acres of land. He carried on farming and sheep-raising until March, 1903, when he sold out and came to his present place where he has enough land to keep him pleasantly occupied in its cultivation without taxing his strength. Formerly he did considerable business in shipping cattle and hogs together with dealing in sheep but no longer pays attention to these industries. He greatly improved his present place and erected his frame house and other substantial buildings. He has always been deemed a good business man and is a stockholder in the Arcadia Bank at Arcadia, O.

On July 27, 1876, Mr. Jordan was married to Miss Mary Dietz, a daughter of Joseph and Caroline (Nunemaker) Dietz. They came to Hancock County from New Jersey when Mrs. Jordan was small. Four children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Jordan, namely: Margaret, who died young; Martha May, who married Ridgeway Anderson, and they have five children—William, Dale, Frances, Charles and Arlouine; Charles, who married Bessie Taylor; and Sarah, who is the wife of Verne McCracken. Mr. and Mrs. McCracken have the following children: Delmar, Arthur, Esther, Laverne and Hartley Howard. Mr. Jordan and family are members of the Lutheran church. In his views on public questions Mr. Jordan is a strong Republican but he has never been willing to accept public office although he is well qualified for the same and is so esteemed by his neighbors that the affectionate title of "Uncle Billy" is very generally accorded him. He is a valued member of Norris Post, Grand Army of the Republic at Fostoria and takes much interest in army matters. Mr. Jordan possesses a fund of interesting reminiscences. He has seen wonderful changes since 1858 when he drove across country from Arcadia to the city of Denver.

THOMAS W. LANG, who is serving in his third term as city solicitor of Findlay, O., is recognized as an able member of the Findlay bar. He was born in Cattaraugus County, N. Y., April 15, 1882, and is a son

of Charles and Anna (Curtis) Lang. Charles Lang is a well known gas and oil contractor at Findlay and one of Hancock County's substantial citizens. He came to Findlay from New York in 1889.

Thomas W. Lang attended the Findlay schools and was graduated from the High School in 1900 and from the business department of Findlay College, in 1902, when he entered the Ohio State University where he took a complete law course and was graduated in 1904. He located at Findlay and soon built up a very satisfactory practice and so demonstrated his legal ability that he was selected two years later on the Republican ticket, city solicitor. He occupies well appointed offices in the Adams Building, Findlay.

Mr. Lang was married to Miss Maud Marion Boehmer, a daughter of A. Boehmer, formerly of Findlay, now residing at Los Angeles, Calif. Mr. Lang is a member of the Elks, the Knights of Pythias and the Modern Woodmen.

PHILIP SCHALLER, whose well improved farm of 118 acres is situated in Section 6, Van Buren Township, Hancock County, O., has always lived here, it being the old homestead. He was born in the old log cabin that then stood on the farm, February 15, 1833, and is a son of Christian and Mina (Bower) Schaller.

Christian Schaller was born in Germany and was twenty-one years of age when he came to America. He was a farmer all his life and spent many years of it on the present farm in Van Buren Township, dying here when aged seventy-eight years. He married Mina Bower, a daughter of William Bower. She died when aged forty-two years and both she and husband were buried in the Van Buren Township Cemetery. They were members of the Lutheran church. Christian Schaller was a strong Democrat in his political views. They had five children.

Philip Schaller obtained his education in the district schools. From boyhood he has filled a man's place on the farm and much of the excellent condition of the land may be attributed to his careful cultivation of it for so many years. His flocks and herds compare favorably with others in this section and he is regarded as one of the most successful farmers of the township. In 1884 he erected his present comfortable residence and in 1897 put up the commodious and substantial barn. In politics, Mr. Schaller is a Democrat. He has never accepted any township office, finding the care of his farm sufficiently important and demanding the larger part of his time.

Mr. Schaller married Miss Margaret Bower and they have five children: Jacob, William, Charles, Mary and Barbara. Mr. Schaller and family belong to the Lutheran church, in which he is a deacon.

HIRAM COOPER EWING, a lifelong resident of Hancock County, O., a member of an old and honorable family, owns one of the best improved farms in Pleasant Township and is one of its most substantial men. He was born in Liberty Township, Hancock County, O., April 12, 1863, and is a son of Jacob and Louisa (Cooper) Ewing.

Jacob Ewing, father of Hiram C., was born August 16, 1836, in Ashland County, O., and accompanied his parents to Hancock County in 1854. They were Jacob and Sophia (Mowery) Ewing, natives of Pennsylvania. They had

accompanied their parents to Ashland County and were married there and when they came to Hancock County settled in Liberty Township. Grandfather Jacob Ewing first bought 160 acres and later added to it until he owned 300 acres. His death occurred in 1866, on the farm now owned by Jeremiah Ewing and his widow survived him but a short time. They had seven children, as follows: Cornelius, a resident of Findlay; Julia Ann, widow of Elijah Goudy, also of Findlay; Philip, of Pleasant Township; Rudolph, also of Pleasant Township; David, who died in the Civil War; Jacob; and Elmira, widow of Richard Boyd and a resident of Findlay.

In 1859, Jacob Ewing of the above family, was united in marriage with Louisa Cooper, a native of Licking County, O., a daughter of Hiram and Louisa (Miller) Cooper. Her father died in 1883, in Blanchard Township, but her mother lived until August 9, 1901, her age being 100 years and sixteen days. To Jacob Ewing and wife the following children were born: Ella, who resides at Deweyville, O.; Erwin E., formerly sheriff of Hancock County, resides at McComb; Hiram C.; Earl, a farmer, who resides with his sister at Deweyville; Charles, who owns and operates a farm near Deweyville; and Jennie, who died at the age of two years. After marriage, Jacob Ewing remained for some years in Liberty Township and then exchanged his farm there for eighty acres in Pleasant Township, coming to the farm on which Hiram C. Ewing lives, in 1878. He died in the same spring, being then in his forty-second year. His widow survived until 1904, she being sixty-eight years of age.

Hiram Cooper Ewing attended District No. 1 school in his boyhood, this being in Pleasant Township. He assisted on the home farm and also worked in the tile business and also in getting out timber, but has made farming his main business. He owns eighty acres of valuable land and he has put many improvements here although it was in fair condition when he came into possession. He is regarded among his neighbors as an unusually successful farmer.

Mr. Ewing was married in January, 1888, to Miss Metta Bolton, a daughter of Michael and Elizabeth (Shepler) Bolton, the former of whom died in 1883 and the latter of whom has reached her eighty-third year. Mrs. Ewing was reared in Liberty Township, the youngest of four children, the others being: Hattie, who is the wife of P. J. Gross, of Findlay; Elizabeth, who is the wife of William Browneller, of Deweyville; and Jacob, who is a carpenter by trade and a resident of Findlay. Mr. and Mrs. Ewing have four children: Lloyd Ernest, born in 1888; Troas, born in 1891; Lee Bolton, born in August, 1899; and Ralph Cooper, born in 1901. Mr. Ewing and family are members of the Church of God. In politics he is a Democrat.

FRANK L. MILLER, one of Amanda Township's most substantial citizens, owning 240 acres of valuable land situated in Sections 5 and 8, was born on this farm, in Amanda Township, Hancock County, O., October 10, 1868. His parents were Jones R. and Mary (Gilbert) Miller.

Jones R. Miller was born in Chester County, Pa., in 1830, and was a son of Henry Miller, who was also a native of Pennsylvania. He first married Margaret Carver of Hancock County, and her death occurred here. After the death of his first wife, Jones R. Miller married Mary Gilbert, who was born in 1823, in Baltimore County, Md., and died in 1905, aged

eighty-two years, his death taking place in the same year, he being aged seventy-five years. They were parents of four children, namely: Thomas G., who was accidentally killed on the railroad in 1892; D. J., who died in his sixth year; Eliza, who is the wife of John F. Hoy, of Vanlue, O.; and Frank L. By his first marriage he had one son, William. Jones R. Miller came to Amanda Township in 1854 and purchased the farm which his son, Frank L., now owns. He erected here the first brick house in the township and did all the construction work himself.

Frank L. Miller was educated in the schools of Vanlue, and at Findlay College and Delaware College, and was graduated from the last named institution, after which he taught school for four years. Mr. Miller then turned his attention to farming and has found an agricultural life perfectly satisfactory. He carries on a general farming line and grows livestock.

In 1895, Mr. Miller was married to Miss Cora F. Spangler, of Wyandot County, O., and they have two children: J. Lee and Helen. They are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and for more than twenty years he has been superintendent of the Sunday school. In politics he is a Democrat and has occasionally accepted township office and has served acceptably as assessor and as trustee. He belongs to Lodge No. 710, Knights of Pythias, at Vanlue.

JAMES LONG, senior member of the firm of Long Bros., conducting a livery and feed stables at Findlay, and a quick transfer line, is continuing an enterprise which was founded here by his well known father, J. W. Long. James Long was born on a farm in Eagle Township, Hancock County, O., in 1874.

In 1875, John W. Long moved to Dunkirk, O., where he embarked in a livery business which he continued until 1890, when he removed to a farm in the vicinity of Dunkirk, but in 1893 he came to Findlay and in the following year founded the present business in partnership with his son, James Long, under the firm name of J. W. Long and Son. In 1900, another son, R. J. Long, entered the firm, and the partnership continued until 1909, when J. W. Long retired and bought the Standard Livery. He occupies a substantial two-story brick building on West Sandusky Street and devotes his time mainly to the buying and selling of fine horses and conducting a feed stable. He has been in the livery business for thirty-five years.

James Long was practically reared in his present business as he became associated with his father as soon as he left school. Prior to 1902 the main business was confined to the conducting of a first class livery but at that date the firm broadened out and entered also into funeral work, investing in all necesasry accommodations for the same and now own ten rubber-tired hacks suitable for funerals. They also have fine vehicles for hire for other purposes, and keep several hacks which meet all trains for transporting both travelers and their luggage and also do a general transfer business, keeping from thirty to forty head of horses all the time. Their stables and warehouse are situated in the rear of the Phoenix Inn.

James Long was married to Miss Viola Werts, of Findlay, O., and they have two children: Robert Neil and Annabelle. Mr. Long is a member of the Knights of Pythias and the Elks. He is numbered with the progressive and public spirited men of Findlay.

ELIAS FOX, who resides in Section 13, Washington Township, Hancock County, O., is one of the capitalists of this section, being interested in banking institutions and owning 1,000 acres of land which is divided into easily cultivated farms, the most of them being occupied by his children. He was born in 1834, in an old log house that stood on the home farm in the woods, on Section 12, Washington Township, Hancock County, and is a son of William and Elizabeth (Whaley) Fox.

William Fox was born in Pennsylvania and after his first marriage he came to Fairfield County, O., where he rented land. From there he moved to Seneca County, where he cleared up a small farm south of Tiffin, O., and thereby made enough money to enable him to enter eighty acres of land in Hancock County, in 1832. He was a man of business foresight and resource and to his eighty acres he added forty more by clearing up twenty acres for Isaac Wiseman, which he did with the help of his older sons. When William Fox settled first in Section 12, Washington Township, he hastily put up a plain log house which later gave way to a hewn log one and this in turn to the brick house which is still standing. He was known to every one in the neighborhood and was called "Uncle Billy" in friendliness. After the death of his first wife he married Elizabeth Whaley, a lady of Scotch descent, who died in 1837, leaving two children: Isaiah and Elias, the former of whom died at the age of nineteen years. The third marriage of Mr. Fox was to Elizabeth Jacobs, who died without issue. He married Catherine Mailes for his fourth wife, and they had a large family, of whom there are two still living—Nicholas, of Hancock County, and Milton, of Seneca County. He survived his last wife, his death occurring in 1871, when he was aged seventy-nine years.

Elias Fox grew to manhood on the old farm which he helped to clear and spent some of his boyhood days in the old log school house, one of the primitive kind, with slab benches, puncheon floor and great fireplace which had to be supplied with fuel by the boys who brought logs in from the forest. After he reached manhood he spent a few years in Wisconsin and after he came back entered his first tract of land, forty acres. He kept it until he was able to sell at a profit of about $400, and this was the capital with which he started his business operations which have grown to be so important. Just before he married he bought thirty-seven acres in Section 13, Washington Township, paying $27 an acre, and in a log house there he and bride commenced housekeeping. For many years he carried on general farming and did much business also in shipping stock. He has believed in improving his land and on almost all the farms he has put up good buildings and has laid, in all probability, 200,000 tiles. He is a stockholder in the bank at Bradner, O., and was one of the organizers of the Union National Bank at Fostoria, of which he is a director.

On March 22, 1860, Mr. Fox was married to Miss Louisa Felkley, a daughter of William and Catherine (Fritcher) Felkley. The parents of Mrs. Fox were born in Germany but were not married until they met in Pennsylvania, where Mrs. Fox was born. She was fourteen years of age when her parents came to Washigton Township, Hancock County. Nine children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Fox, as follows: Amelia, now deceased, was the wife of Andrew Coleman and two children survive her—Emma and Della, the latter of whom

is the wife of David Hines; Charles married Nellie Greene; Bailey married Lela Kiser and they have three children—Harold, Ray and Alverta; Clara is the wife of Fred Crannell; John married Cora Grubb and they have two children—Clarence and Howard; Curtis A. married Sophia Burroff and they have five children —Rosetta, Marcella, Janetta, Ruth and Helen; William, who is unmarried; Lulu, is the wife of Charles Good; and Elias, who married Iva Kendell. They have one son, Alfred. Mr. and Mrs. Fox have the satisfaction of having all their children, with one exception, settled near them in Washington Township. Clara, Mrs. Crannell, lives at Johnstown, Pa. In politics, Mr. Fox is a Democrat. He has served in township offices, being township trustee for three terms. Mr. Fox has become a man of large estate through frugality and good business judgment.

CYRUS HENRY CARR, one of the leading agriculturists and representative citizens of Allen Township, Hancock County, O., is the owner of two tracts of farm land, one of 140 acres on which he lives, is located in Section 20, and the other of twenty acres is located in Section 19. He was born Angust 8, 1853, in a log house, which was situated on a portion of his present farm, and is a son of Charles Wesley and Rebecca (Barnd) Carr.

Charles Wesley Carr was born in Ashland County, O., and when a boy came to Hancock County, where he always followed agricultural pursuits, and died on the farm in Allen Township, August 1, 1909, aged eighty-four years. He married Rebecca Barnd, whose death occurred in 1899, and who was a daughter of John Barnd, one of the pioneers of Allen Township and a justice of the peace for over twenty years.

Cyrus Henry Carr has always lived on his present farm and has made farming his life occupation. On June 27, 1907, a fine large barn and the residence of our subject were entirely destroyed by fire, but have since been replaced by new and commodious structures. Mr. Carr married Sarah V. Taylor, who was born and reared in Allen Township, and is a daughter of Washington Taylor. Mr. and Mrs. Carr have the following children: Linne E., who died aged twenty-seven years; Harvey O., who married Mary Brust and has two children—Bernadine and Genevieve; and Estella, who is the wife of Paul Goeke, resides at home with her parents. The religious connection of the family is with the Van Buren Presbyterian church.

SAMUEL SNIVELY, a leading citizen of Portage Township, and one of the successful farmers and stock raisers of Hancock County, owns eighty acres of fine farm land in this township and also a second farm of eighty acres which lies in Section 10, Pleasant Township. He resides on the first mentioned farm, all of which with the exception of three acres in Section 29, lies in Section 20, Portage Township. Mr. Snively was born at London, Madison County, O., February 26, 1853, and is a son of John and Margaret (Barnhart) Snively.

The parents of Mr. Snively were natives of Pennsylvania. They came to Ohio and lived for a short time in Madison County but moved to Union County when Samuel was a babe and there the father followed his trade of wagonmaker. The mother died in 1861 and the father in the following year.

Left an orphan when nine years old, Mr. Snively had but few of the pleasures and advantages that the normal boy craves but what he lost in some ways perhaps he gained in others. He grew up self reliant and as soon as old enough learned the carpenter's trade, which proved to be one of the best steps he ever took. With his kit of tools and the knowledge of how to use them, he has traveled over a large part of his native land and has left specimens of his handiwork in fifteen states of the Union. His journeying took him all over Pennsylvania, Virginia, Maryland, New York, Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, Iowa and Kansas and on even to the Black Hills. At Buffalo, N. Y., he was foreman for a time for a large lumber firm and in 1880 came from there to Hancock County to buy timber. The first tract he purchased was the farm adjoining the one he now owns and it was while on this business expedition that he first met the young lady who subsequently became his wife, their marriage taking place in the following year. For one year after he continued in the lumber business and then rented the farm which he has subsequently acquired, with the intention of settling down to an agricultural life, but shortly afterward his house was burned and he lost practically all he owned here. He then moved to the Wood County line where he bought eighty acres of woodland, but for good reasons he remained there but a short time and then removed to what was the Samuel Culp farm in Portage Township. However, prosperity did not attend him and so he turned again to the excellent trade which had previously proved so valuable an asset. Leaving his wife with substantially every cent of his money, he again shouldered his kit of carpenter's tools and set his face toward the West. Within one year Mr. Snively sent for the waiting wife who immediately joined him and for twelve years afterward they lived on a farm in Nebraska and prospered there.

In 1896 Mr. Snively returned to Hancock County on a visit and old home associations proved too strong. He purchased the farm of eighty acres in Portage Township on which he now resides. It was unimproved and all the substantial and appropriate buildings now standing thereon were erected by him as rapidly as possible. When he sold his farm of eighty acres in Nebraska, he bought his eighty-acre farm in Pleasant Township.

Mr. Snively was married in 1881 to Miss Rachel Montgomery, a daughter of George W. Montgomery. Her father was an auctioneer in Portage Township who had much more than a local reputation and he also was postmaster at Portage Center, which was the second post-office established in Hancock County. Five children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Snively, namely: Elmer F., Edna I., Ethel Fern, Dorothy and Lottie M. Elmer F. Snively resides on his father's farm in Pleasant Township. He married Jessie Pingle, who died April 20, 1910, and is survived by a son, Cloyce, who is now aged eighteen months. Edna I. is the wife of T. E. Bond. Dorothy is the wife of Clarence Freed. Elmer Snively is known all over this section, having been a popular school teacher for some years and later mail clerk on the C. H. & D. Railroad. Neither he nor his father are very active politically but they are numbered with the reliable, de-

MR. AND MRS. JASPER F. HARRY

pendable men of this section of Hancock County.

JASPER F. HARRY, one of the substantial farmers and much esteemed citizens of Allen Township, who resides on a farm of 76 acres about four and a half miles north of Findlay, has been living on this farm since 1869. He was born November 8, 1836, on a farm four miles east of Van Buren in Cass Township, Hancock County, Ohio, and is a son of Samuel and Rachel (Franks) Harry. His parents were both born and reared in Pennsylvania, and after their marriage located in Hancock County, where the father died when our subject was very young. The mother subsequently removed to Seneca County, Ohio, where she settled on a farm, and many years later married William Myers, who died about 1856. Our subject and mother then returned to Hancock County and located for a time on a farm one mile northwest of his present place. In 1869 they purchased the farm on which Mr. Harry now resides, and the mother later removed to Van Buren, where her death occurred.

Mr. Harry has made all of the improvements on his place, and erected his fine frame residence in 1889. When gas was first discovered in this locality, it was struck on his farm, and he received $1,500 a year as royalty for it. He now rents out his farm, and is taking a well earned rest after years of unceasing activity.

In 1871 Mr. Harry married Sarah Jane Decker, a daughter of Mahlon and Minerva (Dull) Decker, who in their day were very prominent citizens of Allen Township. To Mr. and Mrs. Harry were born the following children: Lilly Adosia, died aged nineteen months; Maud Nora, who is the wife of Burgett Murray of Findlay, and has two children, Margaret and Caroline; Charles B., who is engaged in agricultural pursuits on a farm three miles east of Van Buren in Cass Township; Edith, who died aged two weeks; and Augusta, who is the wife of Franklin Spaythe, of Akron, Ohio.

JOSEPH ALGE, junior member of the firm of Alge Brothers, well known stone, concrete and brick contractors of Findlay, O., was born February 24, 1869, in Martinstown, Hancock County, O., and is a son of Joseph and Theresa (Beck) Alge.

Joseph Alge, Sr., was born in 1839, in Baden, Germany, and when eighteen years of age came to America and settled in Hancock County, O. He first located in Martinstown, where he purchased forty acres of land, and in 1871 went into business in Findlay Township, where he operated a brick yard near Findlay and in 1888 came to Findlay, where his death occurred February 16, 1910. He was one of the prominent pioneer contractors of this city, having followed that business here since previous to the Civil War. He was contractor for many of the dwellings and business blocks of Findlay, the last building for which he contracted having been the Karst Block of this city. One son, Charles Alge, was associated in business with him from 1884, and ten years later his son Joseph became a member of the firm. Mr. Alge was the owner of 268 acres of fine farm land in Hancock County at the time of his death, having made investments not many years after locating in the county. He married Theresa Beck, who is still living.

Joseph Alge, the subject of this sketch, was reared west of Findlay, O., where his parents located when he was about four years old, and he began working in the Alge brick yard when about eighteen years of age and continued working there until 1894, when he became identified with his brother in the contracting business at Findlay, O., and has since been junior member of the substantial firm of Alge Brothers, stone, concrete and brick contractors.

Mr. Alge was joined in marriage with Mary Cahill, and of their union have been born five children: Edwin J., Mary, Verna, Lewis, and Robert. Lewis died aged twenty-five months.

Mr. Alge is a Democrat politically and served two years as a member of the city council. He is a member of the Catholic church, and belongs to the Knights of Columbus.

CYRUS F. KING, M. D., who is the only registered drug physician in Hancock County, O., has been in active practice at Mt. Cory, since the summer of 1895 and is one of the best known members of his profession in this section. He was born in Portage Township, Hancock County, January 26, 1855, and is a son of John and Louisa (Hart) King.

John King, who is probably the oldest resident of Hancock County, was born in Ashland County, O. In earlier years he taught school through Portage and Liberty Townships and for many years resided near McComb. He married Louisa Hart, also of Ashland County, who died July 10, 1898, at Findlay.

Cyrus F. King was reared in Portage Township and obtained his early education in the old No. 9 district school, after which he completed the school course at Findlay. He started to read medicine with Dr. Watson, a practitioner at that time at McComb, and from under his instruction entered the Eclectic Medical College at Cincinnati, where he was graduated June 8, 1878. He started into practice at Arlington, O., where he opened the first drug store, also opening the first one at Mt. Cory, and maintained his home at Arlington for seventeen years. He came to Mt. Cory, June 19, 1895, and has been a leading citizen, serving as mayor of the town for two years, and for two years was a member of the town council. He was a member of the board of pension examiners at Findlay, for ten years.

Dr. King was married December 17, 1876, to Miss Manerva Porter, a daughter of Amos and Sarah (Comer) Porter, the former of whom died April 6, 1899, and the latter August 9, 1900, near Findlay. To Dr. and Mrs. King a family of twelve children was born, as follows: Dwight J., who formerly was superintendent of schools at Vanlue, O., for four summers has been attending the Illinois Medical College at Chicago, married May Brenneman of Mt. Cory and they have two children—Ralph and Wendell; Alvin E., who, for the past year has been a student at his father's old college, formerly taught school for five years at Van Buren, one year in Orange Township and four years in Union Township, married Coza M. Light, of Mt. Cory; Merrell S., who also studied medicine at Chicago, Ill., married Ida Hubler, of Mt. Cory; Bessie, who died September 22, 1906, at the age of twenty years, was a teacher in Cass

Township; Wade, who is a student at the Ohio Normal University at Ada, O.; Carrie, who is employed in the Farmers' Bank of Mt. Cory; Marco, Sarah, Martha and Mary, who are at home; and two who died in infancy. Three sons: Merrell S., Dwight J. and Alvin E. are attending the Eclectic Medical College at Cincinnati. A number of Dr. King's children have been successful teachers and for five years before entering on medical practice he taught school in Blanchard, Pleasant, Liberty, and Findlay Townships. The family is an unusually intellectual one. They are members of the Evangelical church at Mt. Cory, Dr. King being one of its trustees. In politics he is a Republican. He is identified with several fraternal organizations, belonging to the Modern Woodmen at Bluffton, to the Maccabees at Mt. Cory, and to the Royal Arcanum at Findlay.

PETER J. SMITH, township trustee in Van Buren Township, Hancock County, O., where he is a prominent farmer, owning eighty acres of excellent land, situated in Section 22, was born in this township, February 9, 1857. His parents were Peter and Christina (Hickler) Smith.

Peter Smith was born in Germany and was about seven years old when his parents brought him to America. They settled in Madison Township, Hancock County, and there Peter Smith grew to manhood and later married Christina Hickler, a daughter of Andrew Hickler, of Van Buren Township. Thirteen children were born to this marriage and eleven of these still survive. Both parents lived into honored old age, the father dying when almost eighty years old and the mother in her seventy-third year and their burial was in the German Lutheran Cemetery, southeast of Jenera. They were good, Christian people, devoted members of the Lutheran church. The father cast his vote with the Democratic party.

Peter J. Smith, with his brothers and sisters, attended the district schools and he was twenty years old when he spent his last winter in the school room. He helped his father on the home farm for four years more and then married and for two years afterward lived in Madison Township and then moved on a farm situated just east of his present one. After selling that place he purchased his present farm in Section 22. He has made many improvements here and all the buildings now standing have been remodeled. He carries on general farming and stock raising. Mr. Smith is one of the representative men of this section and in no way can his reliability be better shown than by the fact that he is serving in his fourth year as township trustee. He enjoys the entire confidence of his fellow citizens. In politics he is a Democrat.

In 1881, Mr. Smith was married to Miss Mary Piper, a daughter of Adam Piper, of Madison Township, and they have had four children: Henry, who married Minnie Traucht; Charles, who married Amy Piper, a daughter of Adam Piper; George, who married Dora Bame, a daughter of David Bame, of Madison Township; and Emma, who died when three years old. Mr. Smith and family are members of the Lutheran church at Jenera.

GEORGE W. KEERAN, a representative citizen and prominent farmer of Pleas-

ant Township, Hancock County, O., who owns eighty acres of well improved land located one-half mile north of McComb, was born in Sandusky County, O., in 1853, and is a son of Nathaniel and Eliza (Linch) Keeran.

The parents of Mr. Keeran came to Hancock County and settled in Portage Township about two miles east and two miles north of McComb, about 1863. Previously the father had followed the blacksmith trade but after coming to this section engaged in farming and died on his own land in Portage Township, in 1879. His parents were of Scotch-Irish ancestry and came from the north of Ireland to Sandusky County, O., where he was born. Nathaniel Keeran married Eliza Linch, who died in 1886. They had twelve children born to them: William, Cornelius, Nancy, John, Mary Ann, Malinda, Esther, Reuben, George W., Eli, Adaline, and one that died an infant. William was a farmer and at the time of his death, in 1909, he lived in Illinois. Cornelius, who spent some years in Kansas, returned to Ohio before his death, which took place at Belmore, in Putnam County. Nancy was the wife of Lawrence Brown and they both died at Toledo. John was killed when serving as a soldier in the War of the Rebellion, at the battle of Antietam. Mary Ann is the wife of Frank Brown. Malinda is the widow of John Buchanan and resides in Wood County, O. Esther, who died in August, 1910, was the wife of William P. Routson, of Portage Township. Reuben is a prominent physician at Findlay. Eli is a farmer in Putnam County. Adaline is the wife of J. J. Routson and they live in Michigan. The father and mother of the above family were members of the Baptist church. In politics the father was a Republican.

George W. Keeran obtained a district school education and worked on the home farm for his father until he was twenty-one years of age and after that time was employed by his father for some years. Farming has been his main business and he has engaged in it at several points, spending six years west of Deweyville and for twenty years before settling on his farm in Pleasant Township, he lived in Henry County, where he owned 120 acres of land. After selling that place, in the spring of 1908, he purchased what was known both as the Griffin farm and the Wall farm. Mr. Keeran has made many improvements here, including the building of a fine modern residence and a substantial hip-roof barn. His farm industries are all in fine shape, all of his land with the exception of eight acres being now under cultivation. He may be numbered with the comfortably independent men of the township but his prosperity has been brought about through his own efforts. When he decided to purchase his first farm he borrowed the money for his first payment from his kind mother. Misfortune pursued him apparently at first, as he lost seventy-five head of fat hogs from cholera and later lost his barn in Henry County, from fire. In spite of many discouragements, however, Mr. Keeran kept up his courage and where he had worked hard before, worked still a little harder and applied himself a little closer and the time came when he no longer owed a dollar and, on the other hand, had lands and herds which made him a man of ample means. In politics he is a Republican.

Mr. Keeran married Miss Mary Yantis, a daughter of George Yantis of Pleasant Township. They are members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

C. F. JACKSON COMPANY, proprietors and founders of one of the largest business enterprises of Hancock County, O., conduct an immense department store at Findlay which is locally known as the Glass Block. The president of this company is C. F. Jackson, while the general manager is his son, Edward E. Jackson, both of whom are men of large business experience and unquestioned integrity.

Before investing in property at Findlay, the members of the above firm visited the place and carefully considered its possibilities as became astute men of business and after deciding that the field was a promising one in which to establish their proposed great store, they soon secured an excellent location. They purchased the old hotel building formerly known as the Joy House, on the corner of Main and W. Sandusky Streets, and after completely remodeling the same and installing modern conveniences and appliances, opened for business in 1905. This store inaugurated an entirely new scale of merchandising at Findlay. Prior to this no merchant had ever had the courage to gather together so complete and valuable a stock under one roof, or had the enterprise to put forth the efforts which have made the Glass Block, at Findlay, a complete success, so great a one that in the year following its beginning a business of over a half million dollars was transacted. The different departments, some twenty in number, include those devoted to meats, groceries, notions, ladies' and gentlemen's furnishings, shoes, clothing, furniture, millinery, carpets musical instruments, in fact here may be found almost every object, utensil, commodity or convenience that establishments of this kind in metropolitan cities offer. The company maintains a very large force, more than 105 names being on the pay roll, these including salesmen, salesladies, window trimmers, bookkeepers, managers and others in more humble capacities, all being necessary to the smooth running of so large a business. The company occupies the entire building at Nos. 500-508 Main Street, which is three stories high, together with a portion that reaches up another story. The company has provided also for the enjoyment of their patrons by establishing aesthetic surroundings, few mercantile houses in this part of the state having what may be termed a foyer with comfortable seats surrounding a playing fountain as may be seen in the Glass Block. In addition to other goods of modern design and up-to-date ideas, the company has one department devoted to the display and sale of automobiles, their garage being located on Park Place, near the Court House. Here may be seen cars of every price and description that have been favorably received by the public, together with automobile tires and sundries. To successfully manage a stupendous business like this requires much more than the usual amount of ability and the members of the firm of C. F. Jackson Company are thus accredited.

C. F. Jackson, the president of the C. F. Jackson Company, was born and reared at Norwalk, O. He obtained his education and entered into business there, in the course of time becoming a member of the firm of Marsh & Jackson. Later he sold his interest in that firm and moved to Minneapolis, where he was engaged in business for ten years, when he returned to Ohio and subsequently opened the

Glass Block department store which the company still conducts, at Norwalk, O., where Mr. C. F. Jackson resides. This was in 1894.

Edward E. Jackson, general manager of the C. F. Jackson Company, was born at Norwalk, O., but spent ten years of his school period at Minneapolis. As soon as sufficiently matured he was taught business precepts in his father's store and continued in the Glass Block at Norwalk until 1905, when he came to Findlay to be general manager of the new store. He is recognized as one of the progressive and wide awake young business men of the city and has made friends both of a business and a personal nature.

Mr. Jackson was married at Findlay to Miss Glenna Weil, a daughter of John Weil, who is in the drug business at Findlay, and they have one child, Mary. He is identified with the Elks.

SAMUEL SWAB, justice of the peace, is one of Cass Township's most valued and substantial citizens, one of the heaviest taxpayers and public spirited men, and owns four fine farms, comprising 637 acres, and resides on one containing 140 acres. He was born in the old log house standing on his father's farm at that time, in Westmoreland County, Pa., August 5, 1845, and is a son of George and Mary (Rodibaugh) Swab.

George Swab was born in 1813, in Westmoreland County, Pa., and his father's name was also George and he was born near Philadelphia, his parents having come from Germany. Six children were born to the older George Swab: George, Solomon, Samuel, Christiana S., Smith, Mary, and Barbara Duffield, all deceased. George Swab (2) grew to manhood in Westmoreland County, and for a time operated a distillery there. He married Mary Rodibaugh, who died in Pennsylvania when their son Samuel was three years old. Six years later Samuel Swab accompanied his father and his brother and sister to Hancock County. The father settled in Cass Township, buying eighty acres of timbered land, the only improvement being a log house. He cleared and improved this place and put up the greater number of the buildings and continued to live here until the close of his life. His death occurred August 20, 1907, he being at that time the oldest man in the township. His second marriage was to Fannie Shaufler, who was born in Fairfield County and still resides in Cass Township.

Samuel Swab was the eldest born of his father's three children. His brother, David Swab, lives in Allen Township. His sister, Barbara, who is now deceased, was the wife of Andrew Pletcher, of Allen Township. Mr. Swab obtained a district school education. He gave great assistance to his father in clearing the homestead and has always been a hard working man. Although Mr. Swab owns much more land than does the average farmer, he has earned every acre of it by his own industry with the exception of the forty acres given him by his father. He has always been a progressive and enterprising man and has set a good example in his township in clearing and developing his property, in which he has spared neither time, labor nor expense. Oil is produced on all the farms.

On September 25, 1872, Mr. Swab was married to Miss Barbara Kagy, a native of Fairfield County and a daughter of Samuel and Hannah Kagy, who came to Hancock County when Mrs. Swab was an infant. Four children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Swab: Blanche,

who is the wife of John A. Nusser, of Allen Township, and they have one child, Dorothy; Delora, who is the wife of Charles Harry, of Allen Township; Samuel K., who assists Mr. Swab on the home farm, married Bessie Ullery and they have two children—Gladys and Bernice; and Pearl, who is the wife of S. J. Overholt, of Cass Township, and they have two children—Frances and an infant.

Mr. Swab and son are Republicans and he has served in responsible township offices, having been president of the school board and township treasurer and trustee. Samuel K. is also prominent in township affairs, serving as school director and at present is constable. The family is a representative one in Cass Township, Hancock County.

LEWIS F. BRICKMAN, county commissioner of Hancock County, O., and a well known general farmer and cattle raiser of Pleasant Township, was born March 31, 1858, on the old Taylor farm in Washington Township, Hancock County, O., a son of William and Aaronstina (Geisler) Brickman. William Brickman was born in Germany and died in Portage Township, Hancock County, O., where he was engaged in agricultural pursuits. The mother of our subject died in McComb.

Lewis F. Brickman grew to manhood in Hancock County, and attended the schools of his home district. He was reared a farmer and his first farm was a tract of twenty acres, which he bought in Pleasant Township in 1883. Mr. Brickman is now the owner of several farms, having 219 acres in Pleasant Township, 240 acres in three tracts in Blanchard Township, and 103 acres in Allen Township, all in Hancock County. Mr. Brickman carries on general farming and is extensively engaged in raising cattle, hogs, sheep, horses, etc.

Mr. Brickman is a Democrat politically, and in the fall of 1908 was elected a member of the Board of County Commissioners, assuming the duties of that office September 20, 1909. He served six years and nine months as trustee of Pleasant Township and was for twenty-seven years a member of the school board, but resigned from office in the spring of 1910. He is a director of the McComb Banking Company of McComb. His religious connection is with the Lutheran church of McComb, of which he is one of the directors, and served as an elder many years, and for eight consecutive years was treasurer of same.

Mr. Brickman was married in 1883 to Amanda J. Fundum, who is a daughter of Henry Fundum of Blanchard Township, and to them have been born the following children: Henry, who married Inez Donaldson, who died leaving two children, Robert and Arthur; Samuel; Clara, who is the wife of Charles Roy, has one child, Dorothy; and William.

JAMES SYLVESTER CUSAC, who owns 108 acres of valuable farm land, situated in Section 31, Portage Township, Hancock County, O., has lived here since 1889 and was born on an adjoining farm, September 1, 1852. He is a son of John and Nancy (Bell) Cusac, the former of whom died on this farm in the spring of 1904, aged eighty-three years. The latter still survives and is now in her eighty-eighth year.

James S. Cusac was reared in Portage Township and has always lived here with the exception of six years spent in Liberty Township. He attended the country schools and has made farming and stock raising his main in-

terests, and as he is practical and progressive he has met with very satisfactory results.

Mr. Cusac married Miss Margaret Litzenberg, who was born at Findlay, O., and died on this farm in the fall of 1904. Her father was John Litzenberg. Mr. and Mrs. Cusac had three children: Robert, who married Oral Pennelton, has one child; May, who married Leroy Nutter, of Colorado, has one child; and Loren, who remains at home with his father. Mr. Cusac is a member of the Blanchard Presbyterian Church.

JAMES A. McCALL. One of the important business concerns at Findlay, Ohio, is that of Tarbox & McCall, who are owners of stone quarries, and manufacturers and dealers in crushed stone and stone and concrete blocks—a business which was established here in the fall of 1897—also manufacturing cement drain tile. The firm consists of Harry L. Tarbox and James A. McCall. Their works and quarries are situated on Western Avenue, their offices being at No. 953 Western Avenue. Employment is given to about twenty-five men, while the output has a wide field of distribution.

James A. McCall was born on a farm in Greene County, Ohio, May 16, 1864, and is a son of John G. and Eliza (Junkin) McCall. They still reside on their farm, the same one on which their son was reared and resided until he came to Findlay in 1897. James A. McCall was married to Miss Lulu Park of Belle Center, Logan County, Ohio, and they have two sons, Wallace A. and Ernest W.

Harry L. Tarbox, the senior member of the firm of Tarbox & McCall, was also born in Greene County but he came to Findlay several years prior to the advent of his partner. They are both men of enterprise and are enjoying a prosperous business with a promising future. They are recognized as valuable additions to Findlay's good citizenship.

LEONARD B. DECKER, who owns the old homestead farm in Section 26, Allen Township, Hancock County, O., was born here, November 21, 1869, and is a son of James and Mary (Barnd) Decker.

James Decker was born in Crawford County, O., January 16, 1837, a son of Mahlon and Minerva (Dull) Decker, the former of whom was born in New Jersey and the latter in Pennsylvania. They married in Pennsylvania and shortly afterward came to Crawford County, O., and in 1845 to Hancock County. Here Mahlon Decker bought eighty acres of timber land in Section 24, Allen Township, on which he erected a log cabin in which they lived for twenty-five years. Mahlon Decker died in July, 1874. His widow survived until almost ninety years of age.

James Decker was eight years old when his parents brought him to Hancock County. In 1860 he purchased his first piece of land, a tract of forty-six acres, to which he added at various times. In August, 1862, he enlisted as a private in Co. G, 118th O. Vol. Inf., for service in the Civil War then in progress, and he participated in a score of battles in the Middle West. He was severely wounded at the battle of Resaca, from the effects of which he became incapacitated as a soldier and was honorably discharged in 1865, a short time before the war closed. He lived many years afterward, however, his death occurring December 12, 1904. He was a member of Stoker Post, G. A. R., Findlay. He married Mary Barnd, a daughter of John and Sarah Barnd, early set-

JAMES A. McCALL

tlers in Hancock County. Mrs. Decker was born in Allen Township, in 1838, and still survives, her home being at Defiance, O. Eight children were born to James and Mary Decker.

Leonard B. Decker has passed the greater part of his life on this farm, in fact all but nine years of it. During a part of that time he worked at Findlay as a carpenter and spent the remainder as a laborer in the oil fields. He acquired oil interests, his father being treasurer of the Hancock Oil and Gas Company, this being the first organization to open the fields north of Findlay. Mr. Decker rents out the farm for agricultural purposes, and to the Ohio Oil Company, which has twelve wells on the place beside the three producing wells owned by Mr. Decker.

Mr. Decker was married to Miss Rose Horner, a daughter of Jacob Horner, and they have two children: Stella and Edna. Mr. Decker is not particularly active in politics, but he is interested in the fraternal order of Knights of Pythias and belongs to Lodge No. 85, at Findlay.

BENJAMIN BOWERSOX, owner of forty acres of fine farm land situated in Section 18, Union Township, Hancock County, O., has resided on this place for the past seventeen years and is one of the representative citizens of Union Township. He was born in Snyder County, Pa., June 26, 1857, and is a son of Daniel and Amelia (Steimley) Bowersox, also natives of Pennsylvania. They came to Hancock County, O., in 1860 and settled in Eagle Township, where the father followed farming all his life. His death occurred five years later but his widow survived until 1887.

Benjamin Bowersox was reared and educated in Union Township. His business has always been of an agricultural nature and he is counted among the successful farmers and stock raisers of this section. His farm is well situated, lying about four miles northwest of Mt. Cory, on the Ridge road.

Mr. Bowersox was married first to Miss Christina Steiner, in 1891. She was a school teacher who had taught four terms in Putnam County, where she was born. She died in Hancock County in 1901, aged forty-six years, leaving no issue. In 1901, Mr. Bowersox was married second to Miss Jennie Forsythe, who was born at Kenton, O., a daughter of a well known teacher there. No children have been born to the second marriage. Mr. Bowersox is a member of the Church of God, at Pleasant Ridge, in which he has served as a deacon and a member of the board of trustees.

FRANKLIN COOKSON, who is engaged in agricultural pursuits on a tract of ninety acres in Orange Township, Hancock County, O., was born December 25, 1848, in Trumbull County, O., and is one of the representative citizens of the community in which he lives. He attended the common schools of Orange Township, until twenty years of age, when he engaged in farming, and has made that his life occupation. He now has one of the best improved farms in the township, although at the time he purchased the place it consisted wholly of timberland.

Mr. Cookson was united in marriage with Miss Henrietta Thuston, who is a daughter of Henry and Eva Thuston of Orange Township, and to them have been born the following children: Hulda Alura, who died

at the age of nineteen years, six months and twenty days, was buried at Hasson Cemetery; Alva V., who married Bertha Whitbeck of Orange Township, and they have two children—Charles F. and Mary Etta; and William Henry, and Clarence Calvin.

Mr. Cookson is politically identified with the Democratic party but has never held any offices. He belongs to the Evangelical church, in which he is a steward and a member of the board of trustees. Fraternally he is identified with the Masonic order at Bluffton, O.

GEORGE K. CHAMPION, a prominent citizen of Pleasant Township and one of the substantial agriculturists of this section of Hancock County, O., owns 227 acres of valuable land which is devoted to general farming. He was born in Pleasant Township, October 23, 1848, and is a son of William J. and Susan (Wiseman) Champion.

William J. Champion was a son of William J. Champion and was born near Fostoria, O., from whence he came to Hancock County in 1847. He settled in Pleasant Township, five miles west of McComb and one mile north of Shawtown and died on that farm in 1869, at the early age of thirty-eight years. When he came to this section it was almost all in woods and a large part was under water from lack of drainage. The forest stretched at that time from the tract purchased by Mr. Champion all the way to Fostoria and his widow recalls the fact that they stopped over night at Findlay while journeying to the new home. At that time Findlay was a village, but was the height of civilization compared to the forest in which these brave pioneers started the building of their home. Mr. Champion's life was probably shortened by the great strain he put upon his strength and vitality in clearing and draining this land and endeavoring to make improvements. He built a frame house and had prepared the timbers for a substantial barn when he was prostrated and his death followed. In early manhood he had married Susan Wiseman, also born near Fostoria, a daughter of James Wiseman. Mrs. Champion has reached her seventy-seventh year. Her home is with her son, George K. To William J. Champion and wife the following children were born: Mary E., who is the wife of Lewis J. Hardin, of Pleasant Township; George K.; William, who is a farmer residing near Coldwater, Mich., married Rosanna Kelley, of Hancock County; Nancy, deceased, who was the wife of Edward Miller, of Wood County; and John, who is in the employ of the Downey & Harris Tile Manufacturing Company at Findlay, married Cora Miller. The father of the above family served three years in an artillery regiment in the Civil War, and suffered an injury from which he never recovered. In politics he was a Democrat.

When his father entered the army, George K. Champion, as the eldest son, had many responsibilities placed on him and his school period closed early. He has devoted himself to agricultural pursuits in the main and carries on his operations in a scientific manner, being a firm believer in the value of rotation of crops. His farm of 227 acres has been his possession since 1889. It was formerly known as the old Daniel Spaulding farm and was purchased by Mr. Champion from Obed Neible. He has done a

large amount of general improving and erected the present comfortable residence.

In 1883, Mr. Champion was married to Miss Rachel Nevada Cummings, a daughter of George F. and Mary (Hull) Cummings and a grand-daughter of Benjamin Cummings, an early settler and one of the first men to fill the office of justice of the peace at McComb. The father of Mrs. Champion was a soldier in the Civil War and both he and wife are deceased. Mrs. Champion was an only child. To Mr. and Mrs. Champion three daughters were born, namely: Estella, who married Earl Smith, of Pleasant Township and they have one daughter, Dorothy; Ethleen, who is the wife of Burrell Auckerman, a farmer in Pleasant Township; and Vivian, who resides at home. Mr. Champion and all of his family are members of the Church of God at Deweyville. In politics he is a Democrat and is active in party matters in the county although he has seldom consented to accept political honors for himself. He has served, however, for some years as a member of the board of elections and is president of this body.

RICHARD J. GOHLKE, superintendent of the Maple Grove Cemetery, at Findlay, O., was born in Germany, December 23, 1862, and is a son of Ferdinand Gohlke and his wife, Henrietta Gohlke. The father died in Germany in February, 1872, but the mother still lives. She is in her eighty-eighth year and is cared for by her son, Richard J., and is a resident of his household.

Richard J. Gohlke learned the florist and gardener business in his native land and became so expert that he was employed in the Emperor's gardens in the city of Berlin. According to the German law he served his allotted term in the army and held the rank of corporal. Afterward he continued to work as a florist and in 1891 he decided to come to America, where his older brother, William Gohlke, was in the railroad business, being section foreman on the T. & O. C. Railroad, at Findlay. After joining this brother he worked under him for one year but kept on the lookout for work at his own trade and in 1892 found it and on May 1, of that year, became an employe of the Maple Grove Cemetery, a tract of forty-two acres of land. On May 1, 1899, Mr. Gohlke became superintendent, succeeding William Taylor, and here, with his force of twelve men, Mr. Gohlke has made this indeed a beautiful spot. He understands landscape gardening and also the treatment of trees, vines, shrubbery and plants and the different composition of soil in which each one will best develop and has the natural taste to teach him how to make all into an attractive whole. He spares no pains to make this place a credit.

Mr. Gohlke was married in Germany in 1885, to Miss Albertina Schwartz, and they have five children: Richard, who works with his father in the cemetery, is married and lives at Findlay; Paul, who lives in California; William, who is a mail carrier; and Freda and Johanna, at home. Mr. Gohlke is a member of the order of Odd Fellows.

ROBERT BOWERSOX, who owns seventy-eight acres of well improved land in Section 16, Union Township, Hancock County, O., lying two miles north of Mt.

Cory, is one of the representative men and successful farmers and stock raisers of this township, of which he has been a resident for fifty years. He was born in Snyder County, Pa., January 3, 1858, and is a son of Jacob and Mary (Keyster) Bowersox.

Jacob Bowersox was born in Pennsylvania, where he married, and with his wife came to Hancock County, settling in Union Township when their son Robert was an infant. He continued to live in Union Township and carry on farming and here his death occurred in 1890. His widow, now eighty-seven years of age, lives on the old homestead east of Rawson, O.

Robert Bowersox attended the public schools in Union Township and has devoted himself to farm pursuits. His land is valuable and he has it well tiled and carefully cultivated. He carries on a general farming line which includes the growing of grain and the raising of good stock of all kinds. His buildings are substantial in construction and are sufficient for all the needs of the farm.

In 1873, Mr. Bowersox was married to Miss Nevada Powell, a daughter of Henry and Susan Powell, of Hancock County. Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Bowersox, namely: Iva, who married Charles Bubring, also of Hancock County, and they have one son, Harold; and Raymond and Earl, both of whom assist their father. Mr. Bowersox is a Republican and in the fall of 1909 was elected assessor of Union Township for a period of two years. From 1906 until 1908 he served as a justice of the peace. For twenty years Mr. Bowersox has been a member of the Allbright Methodist church at Mt. Cory.

BENJAMIN F. FRY, residing on a fine farm of 240 acres in Section 18, Liberty Township, is one of the progressive and substantial farmers of Hancock County, O., and was born April 5, 1854, in Liberty Township, a son of Henry and Susanna (Spangler) Fry.

Henry Fry was born in Germany, in 1805, and when a lad of nine years stole his passage to the United States, landing in Baltimore, Md., after a voyage of four or five weeks, with but six dollars in cash. He remained one month in Baltimore, and after spending five dollars of his capital, worked by the day at a wage of twenty-five cents. He then went to Fairfield County, O., where he entered the employ of a Mr. Bazel, for whom he later spent some eight years as manager of the farm and as wool buyer. In 1848 he came to Hancock County and purchased a tract of forty acres in Liberty Township, and subsequently became the owner of over 600 acres of valuable farm land in Wood and Hancock Counties, the greater part lying in the latter county. During his early days he also dealt in cattle, and about the time of his marriage drove a large number to Pittsburg, taking several months to make the trip. After coming to Liberty Township, he built a log road, about twenty inches thick, from the center of Section 18 to a little beyond the center of Section 19, and resided along that road the remainder of his life. His marriage with Susanna Spangler resulted in the birth of eight sons and five daughters, all living but one son and two daughters. His wife lived to the age of seventy-eight years, and he to the age of eighty-six years and eleven months, dying in August, 1892. Both are buried in the Aurand Cemetery of Liberty Township. Henry Fry and his wife attended the Church of God. Politically he was a strong Republican.

DON C. HUGHES, M. D.

Benjamin F. Fry received his education in the schools of Liberty Township, and after completing same, devoted his time to agricultural pursuits on his father's farm. After his marriage he lived in the old homestead for two years, then built his present residence in which he has lived continuously since. Besides his farm of 240 acres, Mr. Fry also owns four fine residences in Findlay, O.

Mr. Fry was united in marriage with Miss Laura Grose, who is a daughter of Jacob Grose, of Findlay, and they have three children: Myrtle, who is the wife of Roy Schoonover of McComb, O.; Ray; and Glenn. Mr. Fry is politically identified with the Republican party, and has been a member of the Liberty Township School Board for two years. The family attends the Union Christian church.

HARRY J. MOREHART, assistant cashier of the Vanlue Banking Company, at Vanlue, Hancock County, O., belongs to a substantial old family of this section. He was born in Amanda Township, Hancock County, O., November 22, 1876, and is a son of Jesse D. and Elizabeth (Beck) Morehart.

Jesse D. Morehart was also born in Amanda Township, a son of David Morehart, who entered 160 acres of land in Amanda Township at an early day. This property came to his sons: David, John, S. F. and Jesse D. The last named married Elizabeth Beck, who was born and reared in Amanda Township. They still reside there and have had four children; Ray; Delle F., who married A. L. Woodyard, of Delaware Township; Ross V., who died at the age of fifteen years; and Harry J.

Harry J. Morehart was educated in the public schools of Amanda Township and at Vanlue, after which he engaged in farming until he accepted the position of assistant cashier of the Vanlue Banking Company, on May 1, 1909. He has a wide acquaintance in the agricultural districts and enjoys the confidence of the whole business community.

In 1909, Mr. Morehart was married to Miss Cora Deidrich, who was born and reared in Wyandot County, O. They have one son, Ralph J. Mr. and Mrs. Morehart are members of the United Brethren church. He is identified fraternally with the Odd Fellows at Vanlue and the Knights of Pythias at Findlay.

DON C. HUGHES, M. D., who has been in the active practice of medicine and surgery at Findlay, O., since September, 1894, is numbered with the leading medical men of his city and is in the enjoyment of a very satisfactory business. Dr. Hughes was born at Findlay, February 17, 1871, and is a son of Leonidas H. and Eva (Swapp) Hughes.

The Hughes family is an old Pennsylvania one and from that state went Great-grandfather William Hughes into the Patriot Army in Revolutionary days. The father of Dr. Hughes was born in the old home where his father had lived and died, and remained there until 1858, when he came to Hancock County, O. In 1861 he enlisted for service in the Civil War, entering Co. E, 59th O. Vol. Inf. On the dreadful field of Chickamauga, he was so seriously wounded that he was obliged to return home permanently. He settled at Findlay, and later he filled public offices.

Don C. Hughes is an only child and he was carefully reared and was given school advantages at Findlay, where he graduated from the High School in 1889. Prior to entering upon the study of medicine, he devoted more than a

year to civil engineering, an accident at that time changing the current of his life. Undoubtedly Dr. Hughes would have become a competent civil engineer for he possesses the carefulness and accuracy which that profession would have demanded and which are equally necessary in the one in which he has reached a high degree of success. His preliminary study was done with Dr. F. W. Firmin, and in 1893 he was graduated from the College of Physicians and Surgeons, at Baltimore, Md. For eighteen months Dr. Hughes practiced in Chicago, during this time being one of the physicians to the World's Fair Hospital Corps, and while there visited many times the great clinics in that city. His whole period of medical practice with this exception has been at Findlay. Here his interests have been centered more or less all his life, and here, together with friends made in recent years, are those who have watched his career with interest, since his boyhood.

Shortly after his graduation from medical college, Dr. Hughes was married to Miss Maude Gleason, of Chicago, now deceased. He was recently married to Laura, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Vallorous Brown, of Columbia City, her father being one of the wealthy and influential citizens of Indiana. Dr. Hughes has erected a handsome residence on North Main Street, with all modern conveniences. He is identified with the leading medical organizations, including the Hancock Medical Society, of which he is now president; the Ohio State Medical Society; the Northwestern Ohio Medical Society, of which he is vice president; and the American Medical Association, and is surgeon of the 5th Reg. O. N. G., with headquarters at Cleveland. Dr. Hughes is now, and has been for the last seven years, head medical examiner for Ohio, of the Modern Woodmen of America, the largest insurance fraternal organization in the world. In politics he is a strong Republican.

AARON J. GLATHART, a former well remembered citizen of Findlay, O., a veteran of the Civil War and a member of a prominent pioneer family, was born in Hancock County, O., February 14, 1844, and died at Findlay, January 8, 1909.

The father of Aaron J. Glathart was born in Switzerland, in 1802, and lived there until 1828, when he came to Hancock County, and settled on a farm in Big Lick Township. He was a stonemason by trade and was one of the men who helped build the old Erie Canal.

Aaron J. Glathart was reared on the home farm and when fifteen years old went to Lawrence, Kans., where his older brother, J. H. Glathart, was operating a bakery and provision store. In 1859, the younger brother was taken into partnership but in the early part of 1860 the business was sold and Aaron J. returned to Hancock County and in the same year his father died. In the following year Civil War was precipitated and in August, 1861, Mr. Glathart enlisted in a company organized at Findlay, O. He was one of four Glathart brothers and was the only one to escape a violent death. Rudolph H., was killed by guerrillas of the Confederate force, on Brazos River, Tex., in May, 1865. Manassa G., who was a scout under General Lyon, was killed at Wilson's Creek, Mo., August 10, 1861. Leon L., who was a private in Co. C. 49th O. Vol. Inf. died of smallpox at Chattanooga, Tenn., February 29, 1864.

Aaron J. Glathart enlisted in Co. H, 57th O. Vol. Inf., 1st Brigade, 15th Army Corps, Army

of the Tennessee, and perhaps he saw as much hard army service as any other man that went out from Hancock County. He was on many battlefields and participated in the struggles that took place between the contending forces at the following points: Fort Donelson; Shiloh; Siege of Corinth; Morning Sun, Tenn.; Wolf Creek Bridge; Tallahatchie; Holly Springs, Miss.; Chickasaw Bayou; Yazoo Pass, Miss.; Arkansas Post, Ark.; second expedition to Chickasaw Bayou; Steele's Bayou; Deer Creek, Miss.; running the batteries at Vicksburg, on the ram "Queen of the West" on April 16, 1863; Raymond, Miss.; Jackson, Miss.; first and second battles at Champion Hills; Big Black River, Miss., May 17, 1863; Siege of Vicksburg, May 18-July 4; Chattanooga; Missionary Ridge; Knoxville, Tenn.; Snake Creek Gap; Dalton; Resaca; Kingston; New Hope church; Big Shanty; Kenesaw Mountain; Pumpkin Vine Creek and Atlanta, Ga. During all this long and dangerous service he was a brave and ready soldier but it was not ordained that he should escape all the most serious trials of warfare. On July 19, 1864, the Army of the Tennessee swung around Atlanta and on July 22, just after the tragic death of the brave General McPherson, Mr. Glathart was made a prisoner. He was despatched with others to Andersonville, Ga., the mention of the horrors of which still blanches many a cheek, and there he was held from July 25, 1864, until October 1, 1864, when he was sent to Savannah and was held there for two weeks. From there he was sent on to Milan, Ga., and kept in a stockade there until December 1, 1864, then passed on to Charleston, S. C., where, with other unfortunates, he was placed under the fire of the Federal batteries. About four days he was kept in that position and then was turned over to the authorities at Florence, S. C., where a new stockade had been built. In the latter part of December, 1864, he was finally paroled and sent to a hospital at Annapolis, where he was given a parole and returned home. At this time he seemed completely wrecked in health and for seven months afterward was unable to speak aloud. A splendid constitution, however, and home care restored him sufficiently to attend the Grand Review at Washington, D. C., although he went against the protests of friends and physicians, and through excitement was stimulated enough to proudly take his old place as color bearer in his regiment, a position he had held for the last fourteen months of his service.

During the last charge on Vicksburg, July 4, 1863, Mr. Glathart was severely wounded in the abdomen, a ball piercing the twenty-seven thicknesses of his rubber blanket and a heavy brass belt plate. He was placed in a field hospital, but, in spite of his injury, managed to escape from his guards the same night and made a desperate march until he rejoined his regiment, being determined to not be left behind. The full history of these heroes of the great struggle will never be adequately told. His wound would not heal, however, and later it became so aggravated that he could neither carry his musket nor wear a belt, therefore he was detailed to light duty about camp and was made postmaster and was serving in that capacity as well as color bearer when he was honorably discharged and mustered out at Little Rock, Arkansas, August 25, 1865.

Broken in health, Mr. Glathart returned to Findlay, but soon afterward went to Kansas and sought to regain his health by open air treatment, camping out on the prairies for three months. He became well pleased with

Douglas County and entered into the auctioneering business and in the following year bought a farm near Lawrence, on which he remained until 1874, when he returned to Hancock County. He still continued to reside on a farm up to 1897, when he came to Findlay and in this city he passed away January 8, 1909, aged sixty-five years. He was interested in the Grand Army of the Republic and was a member of Stokes Post, No. 54.

Mr. Glathart was married to Miss Amanda J. Strother, who was born in Hancock County, O., and was a daughter of Anthony W. and Mary Strother. Her uncle, Robert Strother, was a soldier in the Revolutionary War from Virginia. To this marriage seven children were born, as follows: Lena, who married Capt. T. L. Huston, of the U. S Engineer Corps; Harry A., who is city engineer of Findlay, O.; Floy M., who married Levi K. Harvitt; Edna E., who was the wife of Harvey Warren, died August 25, 1897; Roland L., who was a member of Co. A, 2nd Ohio Infantry in the Spanish-American War; Gail G., who married Harry Riemund, and Carl A., who enlisted in the U. S. Navy, June 6, 1900.

JOHN BAKER, whose 240 acres of valuable land all lies in Cass Township, Hancock County, O., 160 acres being in Section 26, and eighty acres in Section 27, farther west, is one of the substantial and representative men of this part of the county. He was born on this farm, January 5, 1847, and is a son of Alexander and a grandson of Grafton Baker.

Alexander Baker was born in Carroll County, O., and was a young man when he came to Hancock County. His father was Grafton Baker who was probably a native of England but moved from Maryland to Virginia and from there to Carroll County, O. When he came to Hancock County he entered 200 acres of land in Washington Township and a three-quarter section in Cass Township, and his son John has the old deed for this land, bearing the signature of Andrew Jackson as President of the United States. Grafton Baker died on the Washington Township land, leaving his property to his children. He had four sons—Elisha, James, Alexander and Garrett, and one daughter, Nancy, who was the wife of John Ebersole. In the division of the property, Elisha, Alexander and James took the Cass Township land, while Garrett kept the old homestead in Washington Township. Each one cleared up his own land, and erected cabins in the woods, but Alexander was better off as his father had built a frame house. All have taken pride in keeping this land in the Baker name.

Alexander Baker married Catherine Eckert, who was born in Fairfield County, O., and had accompanied her parents to Hancock County. After marriage Alexander Baker and wife settled on the 160-acre farm, on which John Baker lives, although at that time it was covered by the forest. Later he improved his residence and partly cleared the farm. He died in 1849, aged thirty-seven years, but his widow survived until 1909, dying in her eighty-fourth year. They had the following children: Lucinda, deceased; John; and Amanda, who is the wife of G. W. Norris.

John Baker had but meager school opportunities as his father died when he was young, but he remembers the old log school house. Being the only son he was forced to take charge of the farm before he had reached man's estate, but success has always attended his well directed efforts. He no longer cultivates his land, renting it out, and he enjoys a consid-

erable income from oil wells on the property. The substantial buildings on his home place he put up and has done a large amount of improving in one way or another. Mr. Baker has additional interests, being vice-president and one of the directors of the Arcadia Bank and Savings Company, at Arcadia, O.

On January 16, 1868, Mr. Baker was married to Miss Sarah Binger, who died in 1887. Mr. Baker has three children: Alexander, Lemuel and Amanda. Alexander lives on a part of his father's land. He married Marion Taylor and they have three children: Earl, Helen and Garnett. Lemuel married Mary Belle Dorsey and they have four children: Lois, Harry, John and Frances. Mr. Baker is a Republican in politics, and at times he has served in public office, having been township trustee and for twenty-four years has been a justice of the peace.

SAMUEL EDGAR MOOREHEAD, president of the Portage Township School Board and a leading citizen of this section, owns 125 acres of valuable land, all in one body, although thirty-three and one-half acres lie in Henry Township, Wood County, O. The Portage Township land is situated in Section 4, on the Sand Ridge road and the Wood and Hancock County line runs through the farm. Mr. Moorehead was born on his father's farm in Portage Township, May 4, 1860, and is a son of John E. and Catherine (Morris) Moorehead.

John E. Moorehead was born in Stark County, O., and was a son of Samuel Moorehead who came to Hancock County when the former was ten years old. Samuel Moorehead was a native of Pennsylvania. In 1834 he entered the land now owned and resided on by his grandson, Samuel E. Moorehead, and cleared and developed a farm. Later in life he went to live with a daughter in Big Lick Township, where he died. The Morris family came from Stark County to Hancock at the same time that the Moorehead family settled here. John E. Moorehead married Catherine Morris, a daughter of Mahlon Morris. She died in Portage Township in February, 1891. Her husband survived until May, 1908. At one time he owned 370 acres of fine land. They had six children and five of these are living.

Samuel E. Moorehead obtained his education in the country schools and has made farming and stock raising his main industries ever since and is numbered with the successful agriculturists of the township. He was married August 16, 1883, to Miss Sophronia Deter, a daughter of Jacob and Mary J. (Lewis) Deter. The mother of Mrs. Moorehead died at North Baltimore, in Wood County, O., in 1905. For a number of years Jacob Deter was a prominent farmer but he now lives retired at North Baltimore. After marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Moorehead went to housekeeping on the Jacob Deter farm and moved from there, in 1905, to his present farm which he purchased in June of that year. Mr. Deter gave Mrs. Moorehead a farm of forty acres, in Section 9, Portage Township, and it was on that place, a part of the old Deter homestead, that Mr. and Mrs. Moorehead lived before coming to their present one. Mr. Moorehead bought forty acres, also in Section 9, and twenty acres, in Section 8, making 100 acres, and this they sold when they came to the old Moorehead homestead. Improvements of various kinds have been made

on the farm since then, the most important one being the building of the commodious and substantial barn in 1910, one of the best in the township.

Mr. and Mrs. Moorehead have had seven children, namely: Pearl, who died in infancy; Maude, who died when one year old; Clarence; Mary; John; Florence and Morris, the last named dying in infancy. Mr. and Mrs. Moorehead are members of the United Brethren church at Ten Mile, of which he is one of the trustees. He is a Republican in politics and has served seven years as township trustee and for two years has been a member of the school board, and for the past year has been president of this important body. He is one of the township's representative men.

DAVID A. BIBLER, a well known general farmer and a trustee of Jackson Township, has been a lifelong resident of Hancock County, O., and was born April 14, 1853, on his grandfather's farm in Jackson Township, Hancock County, O., a son of John and Marietta (Smith) Bibler.

John Bibler, father of subject, was born about 1818 in Fairfield County, O., and in 1834 came to Hancock County with his father, Abraham Bibler, who entered 240 acres of land, in three eighty-acre tracts in Jackson Township. His father spent the remainder of his life here engaged in farming. The mother of our subject was a native of New York state and came to Hancock County, O., during her girlhood.

David A. Bibler spent his early boyhood on the farm in Jackson Township, where his grandfather settled, and in 1866 came with his parents to his present farm, where he was reared and has since lived. He has always followed farming and resides on a tract of sixty-five acres located two miles west of Houcktown, on the Houcktown road, and also is the owner of a tract of fifteen acres located about two miles north of where he lives. Mr. Bibler learned the trade of a mason with Joseph Alge of Findlay, O., and with the assistance of Albert Sampson did all of the work on his new brick residence, which was erected in 1906.

Mr. Bibler was married to Martha E. Swinehart, who is a daughter of George Swinehart, and they have four children living: Charles E., who married and has two children—William and Thelma; Homer, who is engaged in farming, married Grace Claybaugh; Oscar L., who lives two miles east of his father's farm; and Ray, who lives with his parents. Mr. Bibler is a member of the Grange, in which he has served as treasurer. He belongs to the Baptist church. In politics he is a Democrat and in 1910 was elected a trustee of the township.

WILLIAM M. KAGEY, president of The North Side Department Store Company, carrying on a very large and constantly increasing business, with quarters at Nos. 818-822 N. Main Street, Findlay, O., has been a resident of this city since 1892, but was born at Mifflin, Ashland County, O., July 18, 1867. His parents were John C. and Elizabeth (Kohler) Kagey.

The late John C. Kagey came to Findlay from Ashland County, in 1892, and for a time operated a planing mill at Ashland, later was in the grocery business and still

later in the shoe line. He died in 1898, having survived his wife six years.

When William M. Kagey was three years old, his parents moved from Mifflin to Ashland, O., where he attended school until he was sixteen years of age, leaving then in order to begin to learn the grocery business. He was a grocery clerk at Ashland for seven years before coming to Findlay, where he was in the grocery line as a merchant up to the organization of The North Side Department Store, in February, 1907. Of this enterprise he is president and C. F. Fisher is vice-president. They have an abundant capital and handle groceries, dry goods, shelf hardware, patent medicines, granite and tinware, and employment is afforded eleven people. It promises to become one of the most important general stores in the city, its managers and owners being practical, trained men in the mercantile line. The business is incorporated with six stockholders and a working capital of $10,000.

Mr. Kagey was married to Miss Frankie McBride, of Wooster, O., and they have one child, Ralph. He belongs to the order of Maccabees.

ELBERT B. AUTEN, druggist, who has been identified with the business interests of Rawson, O., for the past twenty years, was born in Knox County, O., December 4, 1867, and is a son of Clinton and Mary (Harbin) Auten.

Clinton Auten was born in Pennsylvania and was a son of J. C. and Rebecca Auten, with whom he came to Ohio and settled on a farm in Knox County. He learned the blacksmith trade and later purchased a farm on which he raised quantities of fruit, in Knox County, and died there in 1870. He married Mary Harbin, who was born in Guernsey County, O., where her father followed the trade of a cooper. She resides with her son at Rawson.

Elbert B. Auten was reared in Knox County and attended the public schools. In 1890, after preliminary study, he entered the Ohio Normal University at Ada, O., and was graduated there in 1891, with his diploma as a pharmacist. His first professional position was at Cardington, O., and from there he came to Rawson and in 1902 he purchased his present place of business and has been identified with the leading interests of this section ever since. In politics he is a Democrat and on that ticket has been elected to responsible offices, for the past fifteen years having served as city treasurer and for four years prior to 1901 was also treasurer of Union Township.

In 1895, Mr. Auten was married to Miss Rachel Buckwalter, of Knox County, and they have two children: Agnes and Mary. Mr. and Mrs. Auten are members of the Methodist Episcopal church at Rawson, of which he has been a trustee for ten years. For fifteen years he has been a member of the Masonic fraternity, identified with Lodge No. 418, at Rawson, of which he has been worshipful master. Mr. Auten is widely known and is one of the town's most reliable and useful men.

J. P. MARQUART, a representative citizen and retired farmer of Van Buren Township, Hancock County, O., of which he is a trustee, owns 105 acres of valuable land for which he receives a satisfactory cash rent.

He was born in this township, August 23, 1854, and is a son of Philip and Elizabeth (Heckler) Marquart.

Philip Marquart was born in Hesse Darmstadt, Germany. When eighteen years of age he came to Amreica, landing at the port of New York in 1846 and came directly to Hancock County, O. He married Elizabeth Heckler, a daughter of Andy Heckler and they had five children: Mary, J. P., Catherine, J. G. and J. W., both daughters being now deceased. All the children were born on the old home farm of eighty acres, situated in Section 16, Van Buren Township. Philip Marquart acquired other land. He bought forty acres which adjoined the home farm and later eighty acres more and also the 105-acre farm now owned by his son, J. P. Marquart, together with property in Jenera which he gave to his daughters. He was a very industrious man and had excellent judgment and made his investments carefully. He cleared up his home farm and built his log cabin on the first spot cleared, and as he recognized the value of drainage he put down wooden drain pipes according to the best known methods of the time and thereby made his land very productive. In 1864 he built a comfortable frame house which is still standing. Later he moved to Jenera but his wife died soon after, in 1900, and he then returned to the farm with his son William and lived there until his own decease, which took place in March, 1910. He attended the Lutheran church and was always very liberal in his donations to the same. He was a Democrat.

J. P. Marquart, with his brothers and sisters, attended a German school in Van Buren Township and then worked for his father on the home farm until he was twenty-four years of age. After he married he settled on the present farm. All of the land is tillable except ten acres yet in woods. Mr. Marquart built a new house and remodeled the barn and other farm buildings and also attended to the draining of the land and carried on farming and stock raising until 1908, when he retired from business activity.

Mr. Marquart married Miss Maggie Rettig, a daughter of John and Catherine (Piper) Rettig. She was born in Van Buren Township. Her parents came from Germany in 1836 and bought a farm of forty acres in Van Buren Township and when she was eleven years old they moved to Madison Township, buying eighty acres of land, where the father still lives, being now over eighty years of age. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Rettig were: Lizzie, Maggie, Adam, Catherine, Philip, Samuel, George, Henry, Minnie, Charles, Emma and Mary, and all of these who lived to maturity received a farm from their father.

Mr. and Mrs. Marquart have three children, as follows: Matilda, who married Edward Wilch, of Eagle Township and they have three children—Ida, Fairy and Mabel; Mary, who married William Wertenberger, and they have two children—Effie and Roy; and Lucinda, who married Adam Wilch and they have one child, Fern. Mr. Marquart and family are members of St. Paul's German Lutheran church of Van Buren Township. He has always voted the Democratic ticket. He is a man of very high standing in his township and served one year on the school board and twelve years as township trustee.

SAMUEL H. BOLTON

ERNEST W. HOPPER, a leading business man of McComb, proprietor of a general mercantile establishment, was born in Wood County, O., between Bowling Green and Pemberville, December 26, 1871, and is a son of William and Matilda (Gorrell) Hopper.

William Hopper was reared in Wood County, where he became a farmer. His death occurred in 1879, when aged forty-four years. He married Matilda Gorrell, who now resides in Bowling Green. They had five children born to them, as follows: George, who is deceased; Frank, who is in the clothing business at Bowling Green; Ernest W.; William A.; who is in business at Bowling Green; and Nellie, who is the wife of J. F. Crippen, who is with the street railway company of Cleveland.

Ernest W. Hopper was but eight years old when he lost the protecting care of his father. He attended school at Bowling Green until he was about fourteen years of age and then became a clerk in a grocery store and thus gained the experience that encouraged him to embark in the grocery business for himself and for three years he conducted a grocery at McComb. In 1894 he disposed of his grocery stock, going then to Toledo, where he completed a business course. On returning to McComb in 1895 he purchased a half interest in the dry goods firm of Ewing & Hull, Mr. Hull retiring. The new firm, known as Ewing & Hopper, continued in business until 1902 when Mr. Hopper, through close application to business, was able to purchase the entire stock which now consists of general merchandise, a fine stock of dry goods, carpets and furnishings, and through good judgment and honorable methods he has developed a large business which has still better prospects for the future. For twenty years he has been identified with the best interests of McComb and his standing both as a business man and citizen is exceedingly high.

In 1892, Mr. Hopper was married to Miss Blanche McDonald, a daughter of Robert and Susan McDonald, the latter of whom is deceased. Mrs. Hopper was reared and educated at McComb. They have two children: Lulu and Richard, aged respectively sixteen and ten years. In politics Mr. Hopper is a Republican, but has accepted no political position except membership on the school board. He is identified with the Knights of Pythias and the Maccabees.

SAMUEL H. BOLTON, postmaster at McComb, O., of which place he has been a resident for the past twenty-five years, is an honored member of John Howard Post, No. 154, Grand Army of the Republic, having bravely won a right to this comradeship through years of valorous service as a soldier in the Civil War. Mr. Bolton was born in Stark County, O., January 10, 1845, and is a son of John and Elizabeth (Houk) Bolton.

Both parents of Mr. Bolton were born in Dauphin County, Pa., where they were married and then came to Stark County, O. There John Bolton worked at the carpenter trade until 1846, when he decided to turn his attention to farming, having had some previous experience in Stark County, and after coming to Hancock County he invested in 145 acres of land on the Blanchard River. Later he moved from there to five miles west of Benton Ridge, on the county line of Putnam County, and there his first wife died when about seventy years of age. The father then moved to Findlay where his death occurred when in his seventy-eighth year, and both he and first wife were buried in the Clymer Cemetery. Eight

children were born to John and Elizabeth Bolton, as follows: Reuben, who was a minister of the Church of God, died at Findlay, in the midst of usefulness; Cyrus S., who is a retired minister of the Disciples church, at Davenport, Neb.; John Henry, who is a farmer, residing near New London, Ia.; Amanda, who is the wife of Levi Hummon, of Leipsic; Michael, who died at the age of twelve years; Samuel H.; Benjamin F., who is a retired minister of the Disciples church; and one that died in infancy. Three of the above family served in the War of the Rebellion—Cyrus being a member of Co. F, 21st O. Vol. Inf.; John H. serving under Col. William Gibson, in the 49th O. Vol. Inf.; and Samuel H., being a member of Co. D, 99th O. Vol. Inf., all surviving the many hazards of war and living useful lives after their patriotic services were over.

Samuel H. Bolton attended the district schools in his boyhood and then went to work on the home farm which he left in order to take up arms for his country. His regiment was attached to the Army of the Cumberland and the first great battle in which he participated was that of Stone River. He was engaged also at Chattanooga and Lookout Mountain and was with his command under General Thomas on the march to Atlanta. He was then connected with the Signal Corps at General Sherman's headquarters after the memorable march to the sea, and from there marched to Goldsboro and then to Raleigh, N. C., and was in that city at the time of General Johnson's surrender. He remained in the army until the close of the war and took part in the triumphant review at Washington, D. C., and was honorably discharged at Gen. Sherman's headquarters at St. Louis, Mo., July 11, 1865.

Mr. Bolton then returned to Hancock County and for twenty years followed farming successfully on the old homestead and then removed to McComb. Ever since he has been more or less interested in building cement tanks, taking contracts for the same all over the country. He has been a lifelong Republican and on May 7, 1906, he was appointed postmaster at McComb. This is ranked as a third class office and Mr. Bolton has proved a very popular public official.

In 1866, Mr. Bolton was married to Miss Lucretia Moffitt, a daughter of Charles and Elizabeth Moffitt, of Union Township, Hancock County, O., and nine children have been born to them: Mary Elizabeth, Cora O., Ella, William M., John A., Elmer, Elva, Blaine and Nellie Grace. Mary Elizabeth married Wilson Boyer, a very successful farmer of Blanchard Township, and they have four children: Gayle, Carroll, Catherine and Robert. Cora O. and Ella are both popular teachers, the former in the public schools of Cleveland and the latter at Lima. William M. Bolton is principal of one of the public schools of Cleveland. He was educated at Ada, O. He married Miss Pearl Conine, at that time a teacher at McComb, and they have two children, Dorothy and William. John A. Bolton was educated at Ada, O., and Ann Arbor, Mich., and subsequently was graduated in the class of 1910, at the Western Reserve Medical College and is serving as an interne in a hospital in Cleveland. Elmer, who is a member of the present senior class of the medical department of the Western Reserve, attended the Ohio Normal University and other excellent schools. Elva, who was also educated at Ada, O., is a teacher in the Cleveland public schools. Blaine, who is a graduate of the Findlay High School, is assistant postmaster at McComb. The youngest of the fam-

ily, Nellie Grace, died in infancy. William M. Bolton of the above family served as a member of the First O. Vol. Cav., in the Spanish-American War, enlisting at Cleveland. For many years, Samuel H. Bolton has been identified with the Masonic fraternity. He is a member of the Church of God. This is one of the prominent and representative families of Hancock County.

CARL KOBE, a representative business man of Findlay, O., a dealer in pianos and musical instruments, with fine quarters in the Niles Block, has been a resident of this city since 1872, coming from Saxony, Germany, where he was born on October 9, 1853. His parents were Hinrich and Johanna (Hornung) Kobe.

Hinrich Kobe never came to America. He was a contractor in mine excavation for many years and was the only man in that section at that time, who had the courage and enterprise to use dynamite for blasting. Later he was given a position as mail carrier. After his death his widow began to listen to the urgings of her son, Carl Kobe, to join him in America and finally consented to cross the Atlantic Ocean, but died in 1900, four weeks after reaching Findlay.

Carl Kobe left his native land when he was over eighteen years of age and came directly to Findlay, where his uncle, Fred Hornung, was already located. He had learned the brick and stone mason trade in Germany and easily found employment at the same and continued until other business opportunities opened up more to his liking, but for a long time he was a well known and successful contractor here. He was interested in the line of life insurance for a time and still handles risks for the Home Life Company of New York. A natural musician he soon became identified with musical organizations at Findlay and for eighteen years or more played brass and string instruments in the orchestra at the Findlay Opera House. In 1906, in partnership with his son, Karl P. Kobe, he embarked in the piano business, the latter being a practical piano tuner and maker, having learned the trade in a piano factory at Van Wert. Mr. Kobe is interested in other industries. In 1887 he started the first steam laundry at Findlay, which was located where the McManus mills now stand. He has invested carefully in property at Findlay and is one of the substantial citizens of the place. In his political sentiments he is a Republican and his value as a political factor has been recognized by his party and many times they have made him a member of both the central and executive county committees.

Mr. Kobe married Miss Minna Fillwock, a native also of Germany, and they have three children: Karl P., Emma and Ida. With his family he belongs to the German Lutheran church, of which he is treasurer and in which he is the leader of the choir. He is identified with the Masonic fraternity.

SAMUEL STOUFFER, a prominent farmer of Hancock County, O., who, with his wife, owns 265 acres of valuable land, lying in Washington and Portage Townships, was born on his father's farm in Fayette County, Pa., March 9, 1846, and is a son of Joseph and Nancy (Dobler) Stouffer.

Joseph Stouffer was born in Northampton County, Pa. He was a cabinetmaker by trade and in those days the making of coffins by hand work was a large industry, and charges for the construction of the same, of black walnut, were

regulated by the number of feet, the price being one dollar a foot. From his native county he moved into Fayette County and married Nancy Dobler, and in 1855 they came to Washington Township, Hancock County. This farm was about one-half cleared at that time and here they lived the remainder of their days. His death occurred in 1891, when aged seventy-nine years, and she survived until 1895. They had the following children: Mary J., who is deceased, was the wife of Cyrus Eckles, also deceased; Levi, who died in infancy; Henry D., who is in the hardware business at North Baltimore, O.; Samuel; Sarah, who is the wife of James Slosser, of Washington Township; Susann, who is the wife of John S. Stoner, of Westmoreland County, Pa.; Josiah, who is engaged in the shoe business at Bloomdale, O.; Catherine, who lives in Washington Township; Jacob W., who is a resident of Findlay; and Magdalena, who died young.

Samuel Stouffer remembers the journey to Hancock County when the trip was made over an early railroad into Findlay, when the old-fashioned iron rails were spiked to a 4x4 plank, the best method that had yet been evolved. He grew to manhood in Washington Township, spending his early years in clearing up the farm and in helping as he grew older, to improve and cultivate it. He had little chance to attend school except during the few winter months when farm work had to be suspended. In early manhood he went to Fostoria with the intention of learning the harnessmaking trade, but subsequently decided to return to the country and has followed agricultural pursuits ever since. After he married he settled on the present farm which is part of the old John H. Stoner estate. He bought additional land at a later date and has done considerable building and improving here. He carries on general farming and stock raising. Mr. Stouffer has additional interests and is a stockholder in the Union National Bank at Fostoria.

On March 26, 1868, Mr. Stouffer was married to Miss Sarah J. Stoner, a daughter of John H. and Elizabeth (Overholt) Stoner, who had come to this section as pioneers from Westmoreland County, Pa. They were well known people. Mr. Stoner died January 8, 1867, aged forty-eight years. His widow survived until March 3, 1898, reaching her seventy-seventh year. They had four children, namely: Abraham O., of Washington Township; Sarah J., the wife of Mr. Stouffer; Anna E., wife of A. Purkey, of Bloomdale, O.; and Mancinus, who died June 6, 1895, aged thirty-seven years. To Mr. and Mrs. Stouffer two children were born: Cora M., who is the wife of Charles Bricker, of Washington Township; and Anna M, who is the wife of T. J. Manecke, who operates one of his father's farms. They have two children: Florence E. and Lela Leona. Mr Stouffer and family are members of the United Brethren church, of which he has been a trustee for the past forty years. In politics he is a Republican, and he has served two terms as township trustee.

ALBERT BURSON LYON, who is engaged in general farming and stock raising on a farm of 105 acres, located in Section 2, Allen Township, Hancock County, O., is one of the representative citizens and substantial farmers of the community in which he lives. He was born April 8, 1869, on a farm just east of his present one, and is a son of Lewis S. and Sarah (Weisel) Lyon, the latter of whom died in 1899. The father of our subject was born in Harrison County, O., and at the age of thir-

teen years came to Allen Township, where he was reared, and subsequently engaged in agricultural pursuits until 1903, when he removed to North Baltimore. He became a man of affluence, owning 340 acres in Allen Township, the greater part of which contains oil in large quantities.

Albert Burson Lyon, who is familiarly known in Hancock and Wood Counties as Burt Lyon, spent his boyhood days on his father's farm in Allen Township, and has made farming his life occupation. The first five years of his married life were spent on his father's farm, and in the fall of 1897 removed to his present property, which he purchased from Lloyd Weisel, and which was formerly known as the Frederick Henniger farm. Mr. Lyon has made extensive improvements on the place, remodeling the house, thoroughly tiling the land, and in various other ways has made changes. He carries on farming in a general way, raises considerable stock, having on hand fifteen head of cattle, eight head of horses and eighty head of hogs, making a specialty of Chester Whites.

On December 24, 1892, Mr. Lyon was united in marriage with Alice Havard, a daughter of Evan Havard of Sandusky County, O., and of their union have been born three children: Elva Anna, Ada, and Mabel Margaret.

Mr. Lyon is politically a Democrat, has served one term as trustee of his township, and in June, 1910, served as a delegate to the Democratic County Convention at Findlay. He is a member and a trustee of the United Brethren church, of North Baltimore, O.

WILLIAM J. HENNINGS, a prominent citizen of Portage Township, Hancock County, O., who is serving as a member of the township board of trustees, resides on his well cultivated farm of 160 and one-half acres, which lies in Section 7 and was formerly known as the old Wall farm. He was born in Portage Township, March 15, 1861, and is a son of William and Kathern (Perskey) Hennings.

Both parents of Mr. Hennings were born in Germany and they came to America on the same vessel and shortly after landing were married in New York. William Hennings was a shoemaker by trade and he worked at the same in Hancock County until the last year of the Civil War, when he enlisted in the Union army and served for nine months. He acquired a farm in Portage Township and resided there during the rest of his active life and then retired to McComb, where his death occurred. His wife had died previously in Portage Township.

William J. Hennings was reared in Portage Township and has devoted himself to agricultural pursuits. After he married he operated his father's farm for two years and then bought a farm of forty acres in Milton Township, Wood County, on which he remained for one year and then sold and purchased ninety acres in Liberty Township, Wood County, and continued on that place for eight years, having previously rented land there for about six years. When he sold his ninety-acre farm in Liberty Township, in 1907, he purchased his present farm in Portage Township, Hancock County and devotes it to general farming and stock raising.

Mr. Hennings married Miss Orpha Smith, a daughter of David Smith. She was born

in Crawford County, O., but came to Hancock County as a girl. Six children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Hennings: Roxie, Arthur, Charles, Minerva, Raymond and Lettie. The beloved mother of this family died in October, 1907. Mr. Hennings is a member of the North Baltimore English Lutheran church. In politcs he is a Democrat and on the Democratic ticket he was elected township trustee in the fall of 1909 and assumed the duties of office on January 1, 1910.

M. M. CARROTHERS, M. D., who has been engaged in the practice of medicine and surgery for thirty-eight years, has spent twenty-two years of this period at Findlay, O., where he is also identified with those things which interest an enlightened man and good citizen. Dr. Carrothers was born on a farm in Crawford County, O., February 8, 1845, and is a son of John and Elizabeth (Laird) Carrothers, both of whom are deceased.

Reared on the home farm and educated in the country schools, Dr. Carrothers reached manhood and then taught school before beginning his medical studies, three terms in Crawford County and two terms in Richland County. His medical reading was done in the office of Dr. A. E. Jenner, of Crestline, O., and in February, 1872, he was graduated from the medical department of Wooster University, and in 1882 he was graduated from Adelbert College, connected with the Western Reserve University at Cleveland. He entered into practice at Sulphur Springs, Crawford County, O., and from there came to Findlay. Aside from his professional interests, Dr. Carrothers has led a busy life in other directions. As early as his age permitted he became a soldier, following three older brothers into the army during the Civil War, and for four months was a member of Co. F, 163rd O. Vol. Inf. In 1904 he was elected on the Republican ticket to the Ohio State Legislature and completed one term; has served many years as a member of the Findlay Board of Health and for eight years has been a member of the city council and is now in his third term as president of this body. He is a broad-minded, liberal man, one who, with judgment and discretion, champions movements designed to promote the general welfare.

Dr. Carrothers was married to Miss Mary Wert, who was born in Crawford County, O., a daughter of David Wert, and they have four children: May, who is the wife of Dr. W. B. Keator, of Findlay, O.; Eva E., who is the wife of Rev. A. E. Renn, who is pastor of a Lutheran church at Atchison, Kans.; and John R. and Alta B., both of Findlay. The family is connected with the Trinity Lutheran church, in which Dr. Carrothers is an elder.

HON. CHARLES I. MOORE, mayor of Rawson, O., one of the town's most enterprising and substantial citizens, was born near Rawson, in Union Township, Hancock County, April 6, 1873. His parents were George and Mary A. (Fox) Moore.

George Moore was born on the county line of Franklin County, O., December 31, 1828, and was a son of Edward Moore, one of the old residents of Franklin County. When twenty years of age, George Moore came to Hancock County and settled on the farm in Union Township on which he lived

until he moved to Rawson in 1890, living at the latter place until his death, which occurred March 31, 1909. His widow, a native of Hancock County, still survives and resides with her son, Mayor Moore.

Charles I. Moore was reared in his native county and was educated in the schools of Union Township and Rawson. He has been a resident of this town for the past two years and has been a considerable factor in its development. His business interests here are important, including the ownership of property and the operating of a gents' furnishing goods establishment and a large and finely stocked grocery store. He has been active in Democratic politics and in the fall of 1909 was elected president of the city council, and on April 1, 1910, assumed the duties as mayor of Rawson.

Mr. Moore was married first, December 28, 1898, to Miss Christina Harpst, who died July 1, 1907. She was a daughter of Jacob and Amanda Harpst, farming people of Union Township. Three children survive her: George R., Price H. and Lloyd E. Mr. Moore was married second on May 12, 1910, to Miss Vera Easterly, a daughter of William A. and Jennie Easterly, of Gibsonburg, Sandusky County, O. Mrs. Moore is a member of the Christian church at Gibsonburg, O. He is identified fraternally with the Masons and the Odd Fellows, having united with the former body in 1907 and belonging to the latter organization for the past sixteen years.

E. L. DILLER, who has been postmaster at Jenera, O., since May, 1909, owns a one-third interest in the Diller & Pifer general store in that village, and was born June 11, 1878, at Bluffton, O., and is a son of John G. and Elizabeth (Shumaker) Diller.

John G. Diller was a native of Putnam County, O., and for many years followed farming in that county, residing north of Bluffton. He died at Pomona, Calif., in 1908, at the age of sixty-seven years. His marriage with Elizabeth Shumaker, who died in 1881, resulted in the birth of eight children, all of whom are living. Politically he was a Democrat, and he and his wife were both members of the Mennonite church.

E. L. Diller was reared at Bluffton, O., and after completing a course of study at the public and high schools of that city, spent one year at the Ohio State Normal at Ada, and Columbus Grove, and two years at Dalton, O., and in 1905 came to Jenera, where he embarked in his present business. He served first as assistant postmaster under his brother, William Diller, who was at that time also interested in the Diller & Pifer general store at Jenera, and since May, 1909, has been postmaster at this place.

In November, 1905, Mr. Diller was joined in marriage with Bessie Thornton, who is a daughter of James Thornton of Columbus Grove, and they have two children: Dolores and Harry Lemont Diller. Mr. Diller is a member of the Methodist Protestant church at Jenera.

FRANK S. ROBINSON, one of the prominent men of Hancock County, O., and one of the most successful and progressive farmers, owns 320 acres of valuable land, eighty acres in Pleasant Township, being his home farm, eighty more being situated in Blanchard Township, while 160 acres lie in Putnam County.

Mr. Robinson was born in Richland County, O., April 25, 1865, and is a son of William and Mary (Kahl) Robinson.

William Robinson was born in Richland County and died there. His parents were of English birth and were pioneers in that county. They had two sons, William and James S., the latter of whom became one of Hardin County's leading men. He learned the printer's trade and then entered journalism. He established the Kenton Republican and continued its editor for a number of years. In 1880 he was elected to the office of Secretary of State, in Ohio, and served two terms and for two terms was a member of Congress. He became a man of wealth as well as public importance and entertained lavishly at his hospitable home, his residence taking up a whole block at Kenton. He married Hester Carlin, of Findlay, for his second wife, and a son and daughter survive them.

Frank S. Robinson is one of a family of ten children, in which there were five sons and five daughters, he being the sixth in order of birth. Clara, the eldest, is the wife of I. Q. Haverfield, of Mansfield, O. Florence never married. Charles W. is a farmer in Richland County and married Belle Pittinger. James C. is a farmer in Putnam County and married Flora McClish. Jennie, who is deceased, was the wife of Morris Shively, of Richland County, and is survived by two children: Tola and Harry. Kate is the wife of Paul Roethlisberger, of Mansfield. Etta is the wife of Walter Y. McGuire, of Ashland County. George resides on the old farm in Richland County. He married Eliza Myers. Walter, the youngest, married Irene Pittinger. He is a farmer in Richland County.

Frank S. Robinson obtained his education in the Richland County schools and remained on the home farm of 140 acres until January, 1883, when he went to Deshler and in April to Blanchard Township, Hancock County, where he resided for seven years. Since his marriage, in 1890, Mr. Robinson has lived on his present farm of eighty acres in Pleasant Township. This is one of the best improved properties in this section of the county. The handsome, modern residence is beautifully situated, and the barn, recently erected, is equipped with what is known as the Shawver's Patent, being the first one introduced in the township. Mr. Robinson follows scientific methods and is credited with being the most uniformly successful agriculturist in this part of Hancock County.

On December 31, 1890, Mr. Robinson was married to Miss Nannie M. Davis, the youngest daughter of Alfred Davis, a substantial citizen of Blanchard Township. They have an adopted son, Tola, a nephew of Mr. Robinson, a youth of brilliant mind and with bright prospects. In 1910 he graduated from the McComb High School, with the highest honors of his class and is preparing to enter the Ohio State University, at Columbus, in the fall of the same year.

In politics, Mr. Robinson is a Republican and in 1908 he was the nominee of his party for the state legislature. While defeated he had a flattering following, running 250 votes ahead of President Taft, in the county. He is a member of the Hancock County Central and Executive Committees and was elected to the latter by a vote of twenty out of a possible twenty-one, although he had not sought the honor. For more than fifteen years he has served actively in Republican politics, has been a delegate to two state conventions and was a delegate to the state convention which was

REV. HENRY C. DE RODES

MRS. ELIZABETH A. DE RODES

held at Columbus, August 26, 1910. He is a member of McComb Lodge, No. 179, Knights of Pythias. He was reared in the Methodist Episcopal church.

REV. HENRY C. DE RODES, a retired minister of the radical branch of the United Brethren church, has been a resident of Portage Township, Hancock County, O., since 1851, and is a veteran of the great Civil War. He was born on a farm in Columbiana County, O., May 6, 1828, and is a son of Martin and Elizabeth (Pentz) De Rodes.

In large measure Mr. De Rodes is a self made and self-educated man. Although now he contributes interesting articles to different newspapers which are read by hundreds of people, he had but few opportunities in his youth to train his mental faculties. In his day country boys began labor on the farm when young and continued with but short intervals, usually several months in the winter, until they reached manhood. He remained on the home farm until he was twenty years of age and then went to Cincinnati where he worked in a factory until 1851, when he came to Hancock County, and located in Portage Township, where his brother, Samuel De Rodes, and a brother-in-law, Andrew Nigh, were then living. Shortly afterward, in partnership with his brother, he bought ninety acres of land on the north side of the road, in Section 4, and also the eighty acres on which he now lives, on the south side, directly across the road from the other farm. This eighty-acre tract, which subsequently became his own property, is situated near the Ten Mile Church. He has followed general farming for many years and preached every Sunday, being an acceptable local minister of the United Brethren faith.

In August, 1862, Mr. De Rodes enlisted for service in the Civil War, entering Co. D, 99th O. Vol. Inf. and remaining in the army until the close of the war, his commanding officer being Colonel Bope. He was honorably discharged and was mustered out at Camp Dennison, O. The hardships endured during this long period had shattered his health, impairing his eyesight, and for three years afterward he was more or less of an invalid. He subsequently recovered and for many years afterward was an active and busy man. All the buildings now on his farm he erected, some of the former ones having been destroyed by fire. In this way he lost his former residence, in 1892, and in 1902 his barn was destroyed by lightning.

Soon after coming to Hancock County, Mr. De Rodes was married to Miss Elizabeth Archer, a daughter of James Archer, of an old pioneer family, and they have had eleven children. Of these, Nancy married Henry Brown. Mary married George Brainard. Awilda died in infancy. Martin died aged eighteen months. Elsie married Lewis Brown and they live in Toledo. Henrietta married Newton Tarr, of North Baltimore. Ora F. lives at home. Joseph went out to Arizona where he is interested in a copper mine. Della and Harry reside with their parents. A babe died unnamed. The family belongs to the United Brethren church. Mr. De Rodes has never been very active in politics but when elected trustee of Portage Township, served with honesty and efficiency. He is widely known and universally respected and esteemed.

JOHN S. RUHL, harnessmaker and dealer in harness and leather goods and engaged in general harness manufacturing, with quarters in the Rawson Block, 321 South Main Street, Findlay, O., has been a resident of this city since 1861. He was born at Canton, Stark County, O., March 30, 1843, and is a son of John G. and Susanna (Dickerhoff) Ruhl.

The father of Mr. Ruhl, Rev. John G. Ruhl, was a minister in the German Reformed church and during the boyhood of his son, accepted a clerical call to Marion, O., and from there, in 1861, came to Findlay, and became pastor of the East Main Cross Street German Reformed church. Both he and wife died at Findlay.

John S. Ruhl was reared in Marion County, O., and secured his schooling there. In October, 1861, he enlisted for service in the Civil War, entering Co. H, 66th O. Vol. Inf., of which he remained a member until the close of the war. He participated in many of the thrilling events of those years, accompanied General Sherman to the sea and was on many a long march and terrible battlefield, escaping with two slight injuries. He was honorably discharged at Washington in 1865. Mr. Ruhl then returned to Findlay, where he was elected city marshal and served in that office for nine years and then was made deputy U. S. marshal for five years more. In 1877 he went into the harness business at Findlay and is sole proprietor of the Findlay Harness and Leather Company and has given his entire time to it with the exception of the period when he served as deputy sheriff under Ex-Sheriff Myers.

Mr. Ruhl married Miss Helena Hock, a daughter of Philip Hock, who was born in Germany. They have one child, Flora Ellen, who is the wife of John F. Pogue, who is president of the Hancock Stone Company. Mr. Ruhl is a member of Hancock Lodge No. 73, Odd Fellows, and belongs also to the G. A. R.

GEORGE W. STALL, a member of the prominent business firm of Stall Bros., tile manufacturers, at Arcadia, O., is one of the representative citizens of this place. He was born on his father's farm in Big Lick Township, Hancock County, O., December 29, 1873, and is a son of John F. and Nancy (Roller) Stall.

John F. Stall was born in Carroll County, O., and was a boy when he accompanied his parents, George and Mary Stall, to Hancock County. They settled in Big Lick Township, five miles south of Arcadia, taking up land in the woods. Both George and Mary Stall died at Findlay. They had the following children: Barbara, Margaret, Belle, Sarah, Samantha, Jane and John F., the last named being the only son. He grew to manhood in Big Lick Township and helped clear the land and later purchased a farm for himself and continued to operate it until 1904, when he retired to Arcadia. He married Nancy Roller, a native of Big Lick Township and a daughter of Wilson Roller, one of the pioneers of that section. Seven children were born to that marriage, as follows: Wilton J.; Flora Adell, who is the wife of R. B. Russell; and Edwin, Arthur J., George Wilson, Thomas J. and William H.

George W. Stall attended the district schools and remained on the home farm

through boyhood and then worked for five years in the oil fields and after that purchased the hardware store of A. M. Nye, at Arcadia. He conducted the hardware business for six years and then became interested in tile manufacturing and through satisfactory business transactions, in June, 1910, he and his brother, W. H. Stall, became the proprietors of the tile manufacturing plant covering eight acres, situated on the Lake Erie & Western and Nickel Plate Railroads, while the firm of Stacy & Son, through the trade, took the hardware store. They give constant employment to six men and the output is drain tile.

In March, 1893, Mr. Stall was married to Miss Nora B. Overholtzer, a daughter of John Overholtzer, of Marion Township, Hancock County, and they have three children: Marie, Rachel and Marjorie. Mr. and Mrs. Stall are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. In politics he is a Democrat and has served acceptably in the city council. He is identified with the order of Modern Woodmen of the World at Arcadia.

ELI SPITLER, a representative citizen of Allen Township, Hancock County, O., who resides on his valuable farm of eighty-seven acres, which lies on the Perrysville turnpike road, one mile north of Van Buren, was born on a farm, in Crawford County, O., October 25, 1839, and is a son of Samuel and Annie (Bretz) Spitler.

When Eli Spitler was one and one-half years old, his parents moved to a farm in Allen Township, Hancock County, which is now occupied by S. D. Spitler, and there he grew to manhood and remained on the home farm for some years after marriage. In 1880, Mr. Spitler came to his present farm, in Section 6, where he carries on general farming and stock raising. His property is well improved, Mr. Spitler having built his large frame house and substantial barns some years since. The T. & O. C. Railroad runs north and south through the center of his land.

In December, 1876, Mr. Spitler was married to Miss Martha Jane Ensminger, who was born in Allen Township, a daughter of Perry Ensminger, and they have six children: Charles, who lives in Toledo, is married and has three children; Clara (Mrs. Holmes), who lives at Deshler, in Henry County, has four children; Cloice, who resides at home; Allan, who lives on a farm two miles northwest of Deshler, is married and has four children; Hattie (Mrs. Bonam), who lives in Oklahoma, has two children; and Daniel, who lives with his wife and child at Waterville, O. Mr. Spitler is a member of the United Brethren church. In politics he is a Democrat and at times he has taken a leading part in township affairs and has served as a trustee and also as a member of the school board.

JACOB T. CRITES, a leading citizen of Portage Township, Hancock County, O., township clerk and an active Republican politician, lives on his valuable farm of 100 acres, which is situated in Section 33, five and one-half miles from Findlay. He was born in Allen Township, Hancock County, May 25, 1868, and is a son of Joseph and Margaret (Doudle) Crites.

Joseph Crites was born and married in Fairfield County, O. He married Margaret Doudle, who was born in Pennsylvania and was brought to Fairfield County in girlhood. In 1860, Joseph Crites and wife moved to Han-

cock County and both died on their farm in Allen Township. They were worthy people who were respected by all who knew them.

Jacob T. Crites was reared in Allen Township and in boyhood attended the country schools and later spent three years at Findlay College. Farming has been Mr. Crites' main occupation although he taught school very acceptably for thirteen winters in early manhood. In 1894 he moved on his present farm, which then belonged to his father-in-law, and rented the land until 1902, when he bought fifty acres of it and purchased the other fifty in 1908. The barn was on the place when he took possession and in 1906 Mr. Crites erected the attractive modern residence which is now the family home. He has made many other improvements and has been successful in his farm and stock operations.

In 1891, Mr. Crites was married to Miss Blanche Cusac, a daughter of James Cusac, a prominent farmer of Liberty Township, and they have five children: Stella, Violet, Margaret, Alice and Sarah. Mr. and Mrs. Crites are members of the Blanchard Presbyterian church, of which he is treasurer and in which he has led the choir for twenty years. Mr. Crites has taken an active interest in public matters in his township and is more or less of a leader in all of importance. He is a member of the Republican County Committee from Portage Township and since January 1, 1908, he has been township clerk.

OSCAR KIRSTEN, who, in association with his brother, Otto Kirsten, owns and controls the American Mask Manufacturing Company, at Findlay, O., has been so identified since 1884. This concern enjoys the distinction of being the first one of its kind in the United States and in fact there is but one other mask factory in the whole country. Oscar Kirsten and brother were born in Saxony, Germany, the former in 1859, and they are sons of Henry Kirsten.

Oscar Kirsten spent his youth in Germany. In 1880 he came to America, stopping in Cincinnati until 1884, when he came to Findlay, his brother Otto reaching this city one year later. In 1884 the present business was started, its location being on South Main Street in the Headquarters Block, but subsequently removal was made to their present three-story factory, which is situated at the junction of the L. E. & W. Railroad and West Sandusky Street. The business of the firm is the manufacturing of masks of all descriptions and of novelties, such as the imitation joints of meat made use of by butchers for display purposes. This is a very important enterprise, requiring the work of more than forty hands, these being mainly girls, and their trade field is all over the United States and also Canada. The business is a constantly growing one and considerable capital is invested.

CHARLES W. DEEDS, a representative business man of Rawson, O., where he is engaged in a general mercantile business, owns a farm of eighty acres, situated in Union Township, one and one-half miles northeast of this place, which is generally acknowledged to be one of the best managed properties in this part of Hancock County. Mr. Deeds was born on his father's farm in Eagle Township, three miles from Rawson, May 13, 1879, and is a son of Samuel and Martha Deeds. Both parents were born in Hancock County, the father in Union Township, in 1844, and the latter in

Eagle Township, and they live retired at Rawson.

Charles W. Deeds attended the schools of Eagle Township and Rawson and for the past thirteen years has been in business in this town, for seven years conducting his large general store. He carries a very heavy stock of up-to-date goods, including dry goods, groceries, hats, caps and all kinds of floor coverings, and owns his business quarters, a building with dimensions of 150 by 23 feet, located on Main Street. He enjoys the best patronage of the town and of the adjacent country.

Mr. Deeds was married February 28, 1904, to Miss Rosanna Foltz, a daughter of Abraham and Mary Foltz, who were well known people in Union Township. The mother of Mrs. Deeds died at Rawson in 1895, but the father survives. Mr. and Mrs. Deeds have two children: Dortha Louise and Martha Beatrice. Mr. Deeds and family belong to the United Brethren church at Rawson. He is identified with the Odd Fellows, for the past four years having been a member of Rawson Lodge No. 559, and of the Knights of Pythias, Lodge No. 410, in which he has filled every official position and at present is grand past chancellor.

JOHN HELDMAN, a retired farmer and much esteemed citizen of Jenera, O., is the owner of the old Heldman farm, which is located just north of Jenera in Van Buren Township, Hancock County, and was born there December 6, 1849, a son of Michael and Margaret (Arras) Heldman.

Michael Heldman was a native of Germany and at the age of twenty-five years came to the United States and first located in Marion County, O. He was married while there to Margaret Arras, the eldest daughter of Peter Arras, and in 1835, with his wife and child, came to Hancock County, bringing one horse and wagon. He settled on a tract of eighty acres of timber land in Van Buren Township, which now forms part of the present site of Jenera, and there erected a log cabin, which is still standing. This land he cleared, placed in a state of cultivation, and later bought another tract of 120 acres, which is now owned by our subject. He died here at the age of eighty-four years and six months, and his wife died at the age of sixty-six years. They were the parents of seven children, all but the eldest being born in Van Buren Township. They were members of the Lutheran church.

John Heldman was born in the old log house on his father's farm, and there grew to maturity. After his marriage he engaged in farming on the home place, which he greatly improved, and was at one time the owner of 200 acres of fine farm land in Van Buren Township. That section of Jenera which is just north of the railroad, was formerly owned by our subject, who laid out his land in town lots and sold about seventy lots in all. He still manages his farm, although a resident of Jenera, where he built a fine residence about 1889.

In 1888, Mr. Heldman was joined in marriage with Miss Elizabeth Rettig, a daughter of John Rettig, who resides south of Arlington, and of their union have been born the following children: Henry, Emma, Elizabeth, Carl, Katie and Wilhelmine, the last three having all died with diphtheria.

Mr. Heldman is a charter member and

stockholder of the Farmers' Bank Company of Jenera, is politically a Republican, and although not a politician in any sense of the word, has served some years as town treasurer. He is a member and deacon of the Lutheran church.

HENRY B. RADER, ex-county commissioner of Hancock County, O., and a prominent farmer of Pleasant Township, where he owns eighty acres of well improved land, was born in this township, one-fourth mile distant from his present farm, April 24, 1844, a son of John and Elizabeth (Wall) Rader.

The Rader family was established in Hancock County by the grandfather, Henry Rader, who came in 1835 and settled near Van Buren. He was born in Pennsylvania and moved from there to Virginia and later came to Ohio and died in Allen Township, Hancock County, at the age of eighty-two years. He married Catherine Bops, in Virginia, and they had eight children: James, John, David, Adam, Isaac, Henry, Annie Stephenson and Elizabeth Murray, all of whom died in Hancock County except Isaac, Annie and Elizabeth, who died in Henry County.

John Rader was a well known farmer in Pleasant Township. He married Elizabeth Wall, a daughter of Richard Wall, who came from Pennsylvania and settled in Portage Township, Hancock County, two miles east of Mr. Rader's present farm. Richard Wall died at the home of John Rader and wife. He had four children: H. B., Alice, Elizabeth and Millie, the last named being the wife of Adam Rader. All are now deceased. The following children were born to John and Elizabeth Rader: Henry B.; Richard W., who is a farmer in Portage Township, married Lucy Sebring; William, who resides at Hoystville, married Fannie Rider; A. J., who lives in Hillsdale County, Mich., married a Miss Metz; John M., who is a resident of Toledo, married Ida Leonard; Millie, who married Andrew J. Rider, who is a farmer in Pleasant Township; Alice, who is deceased, was the wife of Rev. Leonard; and two that died young.

Henry B. Rader was reared on the farm on which he was born and obtained a common school education. On November 4, 1861, he enlisted in the army, he became a member of Co. K, 65th O. Vol. Inf., enlisting at Findlay and being mustered in at Mansfield. His regiment was attached to Sherman's army and was sent from Mansfield to Louisville, Ky. His first battle was at Shiloh and from there the depleted regiment went to Corinth and after fighting there went on through Alabama back to Louisville, fighting at Crab Orchard and other points. It was at Stone River that Mr. Rader was so seriously injured that he lost his left arm and a recital of the circumstances excite in the reader of the present day sentiments of sympathy and admiration. He was wounded on the field, far from any adequate surgical attention. With the courage and self control that a man might have shown who had already learned these attributes through suffering, this boy of eighteen years walked twenty miles to reach the hospital at Nashville. There his arm was first amputated, January 5, 1862, but it had been so long neglected that a second amputation became necessary and

RESIDENCE OF J. J. SINK

it was repeated ten days later. When it is remembered that surgeons operated at that time with few of the merciful anaesthetics of the present day and practically no disinfectants, it is a subject of wonderment that Mr. Rader had the power of will to watch the operation as would a bystander, as he did. It was some time before he recovered sufficiently to leave the hospital, when he returned home and subsequently attended and later taught school, and has long been numbered with the best informed and broad minded men of this section. He is one of the oldest native born citizens of Pleasant Township and has resided on this farm which he bought in 1867. He had a large acreage to clear and as time has passed has made many excellent improvements, having substantial buildings and comfortable surroundings.

On September 6, 1866, Mr. Rader was first married, the lady being Miss Elizabeth George, a daughter of Joseph George, a prominent farmer of this section, and the living children born to this marriage are: Franklin, who married Mary Conner, has two children, Howard and Nellie; Nevada, who married Isaiah Metzger, of Toledo, and they have two children, Alda and Kenneth; Ida, who married Charles Ewing, of Deweyville, O., and they have four children, Ruth, Helen, Dorothy and Teddy; Ross, who resides at Findlay, married Grace Slaughterback and they have one child, Gerald. The mother of the above family died in 1882. Mr. Rader subsequently married his sister-in-law, Miss Sarah George, and three children were born to them: Dallas, who married Alta Barger, has one son, Elmo, and they reside in Pleasant Township; Theresa, who is the wife of Walter Otto, of Pleasant Township; and Lena, who resides with her parents.

Mr. Rader is a member and a trustee and also treasurer of the Church of God, at Deweyville. In politics he is a Democrat and has served as township assessor and as trustee and also as a county commissioner. He is identified with the John Howard Post, G. A. R., at McComb, O.

J. J. SINK, who operates a farm of 160 acres located on the Houcktown Road in Jackson Township, Hancock County, O., was born August 27, 1847, in Jackson Township, this county, and is a son of John W. and Susan R. Sink, both natives of Pennsylvania. The father was a farmer and blacksmith and after his marriage came to Hancock County, O., where he and his wife both died.

J. J. Sink grew to maturity in Jackson Township and received his education in the district schools. He was reared a farmer and has always engaged in agricultural pursuits, and purchased his present farm of 160 acres from the Struble heirs about five years ago. Mr. Sink is politically a Democrat and has served his township as trustee. He has been a member of the Methodist Episcopal church for the past forty years.

In 1873 Mr. Sink married Miss Lucy A. Struble, who is a daughter of Peter and Mary (Corwin) Struble, who owned and resided on the farm now owned by our subject. Peter Struble was born in New Jersey and his wife in Pennsylvania. Mr. and Mrs. Sink have reared the following children: Maud M., who taught five years in the district schools of Jackson, Eagle and Liberty Townships, married Andrew Altman, a mechanic of Findlay,

O., and is the mother of two children—Blanche and Everett; Harley, who is a graduate of the Homeopathic Medical College of Cleveland, O., and has been practicing medicine for the past six years at Columbus Grove, married Sarah Stewart and they have two children—La Verne and Beda Alta; Ethel, who was educated at Mt. Blanchard, taught three years in Delaware and Jackson Townships, married Charles Hauman, who is at present operating a farm of 200 acres, and is the owner of a tract of eighty acres in Jackson Township, where they reside, and they have five children—Mary, Nellie, Margaret, Helen and Leonard; and Oscar O., who has been practicing medicine at Smithfield, O., for one year, is a graduate of the Cleveland Medical College, and married Lillian Sampson, who, previous to her marriage, was a teacher.

HARRY A. GLATHART, city engineer of Findlay, O., with previous experience as assistant city engineer and also as county engineer, is a man well qualified for this responsible position. He belongs to a well known family of Hancock County, of Swiss extraction. He was born at Lawrence, Kans., May 28, 1870, and is a son of Aaron J. and Amanda J. (Strothers) Glathart.

The grandfather of Mr. Glathart came from Switzerland and established the family in Hancock County in 1828. Aaron J. Glathart was born in Hancock County and spent many years here and also resided in Kansas. He was an honored veteran of the Civil War. His death occurred at Findlay in 1909. His widow survives.

Harry A. Glathart was reared and educated at Findlay through a part of his boyhood. He was five years old when his parents came from Lawrence, Kans., back to Ohio and until he was eleven years old the family lived at Findlay and then moved to a farm in Marion Township, six miles east of this city. He attended the country schools until he was twenty-one and then entered the Ohio State University at Columbus, and later he made a special study of civil engineering as well as electrical engineering in the Ohio Normal University at Ada. After leaving that institution he went into railroading, both steam and electric, having his headquarters at different points—Cleveland, Ohio; Hamilton, Ontario, Canada; Kansas City and in Old Mexico. In 1905 he returned from Canada to Findlay and on the Republican ticket ran for county engineer and was elected to that office. He served as assistant city engineer and on January 1, 1910, was appointed city engineer by Mayor Graves.

Mr. Glathart was married to Miss Clara A. Landon, of Wyandot County, O., and they have four children: Theron, Justin, Grace and Clifford. Mr. Glathart is affiliated fraternally with the Masons, the Odd Fellows and the Knights of Pythias and he belongs also to the Sons of Veterans.

NICHOLAS FOX, one of Washington Township's best known citizens and most substantial men, owning farms in Sections 16, 17 and 9, aggregating 540 acres of some of the best land in Hancock County, O., was born in his father's old log house that stood on the home farm in Washington Township, south of Fostoria, July 10, 1848. His parents were William and Catherine (Mails) Fox.

William Fox was a well known pioneer of this section. He was born in Pennsylvania. It is said that he and John Hooper and James Wiseman were the three white men who rep-

resented the race in this section of Ohio, coming before Hancock County was organized and long before Findlay had been laid out. They all took up land from the Government, William Fox selecting that lying along the creek in Washington Township, and each cleared his own property, doing the first clearing in all this section. They no doubt faced and overcame many hardships and all have long since passed away. William Fox left many descendants, having been married four times and he became the father of twenty-five children. His first wife died in Pennsylvania and his second marriage might have been in Fairfield County, O., where the Pennsylvania pioneers stopped for a time. Her name was Whaley and she died in Washington Township. He then married Elizabeth Jacobs and after her death, Catherine Mails. Of the children born to the last union there are two survivors: Nicholas and Milton.

Nicholas Fox recalls the school house of his boyhood as a small log building with split log seats and wide fireplace. In those days farmer boys were not given a great deal of time for their books, the clearing and tilling of the soil being duties that could not be put off or avoided and Mr. Fox had a thorough training along these lines. He remained at home until he was married and then started out for himself, going into debt for his first 120 acres which was all in woods. He not only cleared that but the larger part of the rest of his land which he bought from time to time as he was able and as he saw the property was valuable. In 1871 he bought his residence farm in Section 16, from Emanuel Kimmell, and put up all the substantial buildings here and has good buildings on all his other farms, all of which are otherwise well improved. All of his land is under cultivation and all is operated by his own children.

On December 30, 1868, Mr. Fox was married to Miss Mary Gilmer, a daughter of John and Susan (Caster) Gilmer, who were Pennsylvania people, coming from Allegheny County and settling in Delaware Township, Hancock County, where Mrs. Fox was born. To this marriage twelve children were born, six of whom died young. The family record is as follows, including the surviving children and grandchildren: Edward married Bertha Crawford and they live in Washington Township and have seven children: Ralph, Elmer, Mary, Emma, Rose and Bessie, twins, and Edward. John E. married Nannie Wells, now deceased, and they had one child, Lela, who lives with her grandfather. Mollie is the wife of S. E. Noel, of Washington Township, and they have four children: Carle, Wilbur, Mildred and Crystal. William married Etta Nusser and they live in Washington Township and have three children: Waldo, Fayma and Kenneth. Nicholas and Coral reside at home, Nicholas being the farmer of the home place.

JOHN D. BARND, one of the leading agriculturists of Allen Township, Hancock County, O., resides on a farm of 135½ acres near Van Buren, and was born December 11, 1844, on a farm which is part of the farm on which he now lives. He is a son of John and Sarah (Gerlinger) Barnd.

John Barnd came from Perry County, O., in 1832, and settled for a short time on land in Allen Township, but subsequently located on the farm on which our subject was born. He married Sarah Gerlinger, who was born March 31, 1811, in Shenandoah County, Va., a daughter of John and Elizabeth Gerlinger.

At the age of eight years she came to Perry County, O., with her parents and was there reared and married. She was the mother of twelve children, eleven of whom grew to maturity, and died on the farm in Allen Township March 29, 1884. John and Sarah Barnd were members of the Primitive Baptist church, of which their son-in-law, Rev. J. B. Smith, was pastor. John Barnd served over thirty consecutive years as justice of the peace of Allen Township.

John D. Barnd was reared in Allen Township, and has made farming his life occupation. He has resided on his present farm since 1869, having purchased in 1867 thirty-eight acres, to which he has from time to time added small tracts, and is now the owner of 135½ acres of highly cultivated land, all in one tract. Mr. Barnd has made all of the improvements on his place, and is recognized as one of the substantial and successful farmers of Allen Township.

Mr. Barnd was married in 1868 to Emily S. Bushong, a native of Portage Township, Hancock County, and a daughter of Jacob and Elizabeth (Bowhard) Bushong, pioneers of this county, who settled here in 1833. Nine children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Barnd: Sarah Elizabeth, who is the wife of Franklin Daniles of Allen Township; Cloyse M., who is a resident of Allen Township; William H.; Bertie; Arby D., who is now serving as assessor of Allen Township; George A.; Blanche B.; and John Jacob and Nellie, both of whom died in infancy.

MARTIN INSLEY, one of Portage Township's most respected citizens, resides on his valuable farm of 159 acres, which lies in Section 18 and is devoted to general farming and stock raising. He was born on a farm in Seneca County, O., September 18, 1841, and is a son of Zacharias and Esther (Sowards) Insley. The father died at McComb, in 1891, and the mother in 1897.

Mr. Insley accompanied his father and family to Hancock County in 1870, the father purchasing 100 acres of the farm which now belongs to his son and continued to cultivate the land until he retired. For forty years Martin Insley has resided in Portage Township with the exception of two years which he spent in Wood County. He has always been engaged in farming and stock raising but has more or less turned his heavy responsibilities over to his son, Charles Insley, who capably continues his father's industries.

In 1873, Mr. Insley was married to Miss Jane Montgomery, a daughter of George W. Montgomery, formerly a well known resident of the township and once postmaster at Portage Center. Nine children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Insley, as follows: Ferdinand, who resides with his family in Portage Township; Charles, whose family includes twin sons, Blaine M. and Wayne A.; Nellie, who married Wesley Clark, of Portage Township, and they have three children, Ralph, Glen and Esther Mary; Lettie, who is the wife of Homer Brandebury; Bert, who married Freda Langhorst; Wilbur, who married Carrie Gorrell; Ola and Nola, twins; and Esther. Mr. Insley and family are members of the Portage Chapel Methodist Episcopal church, in which he is a trustee. In politics he is a Republican. At times he has served as a school director, the Archer school in District No. 3 being situated on

his farm. He has resided on this place since 1896, coming here from another farm in Portage Township, situated two miles southeast of his present property.

WILLIAM G. HIRSCHER, proprietor of the Hirscher Cement Blocks Company, manufacturers of cement blocks and of ornamental cement work of all kinds, is one of Findlay's progressive business men and has been a resident of Findlay, O., all his life, born here September 18, 1874. His parents were Martin and Elizabeth (Enz) Hirscher.

Martin Hirscher and wife were both born in Germany. They were married at Bellefontaine, O., and in 1856 came to Findlay. He was a potter by trade and operated a pottery here and later acquired a stone quarry and while in the stone business began the manufacturing of cement blocks. He continued in this line until his death, which occurred in October, 1893. His widow continued the business until 1894, when William G. Hirscher took charge. He has been established in his present quarters since January, 1909. There is no doubt but that Mr. Hirscher is engaged in a business that seems to have a great future and there are those who predict that cement blocks will sometime supersede all other kinds of material for building purposes. At present he finds it necessary to have the help of three first class workmen, and he has completed a number of important contracts.

Mr. Hirscher married Miss Louisa Wagner, who was born at Findlay and is a daughter of Ludwig Wagner, and they have two children: Catherine and Helen. Mr. Hirscher is a member of the order of Odd Fellows.

J. H. VARNUM, M. D., a leading physician and surgeon in Hancock County, O., who has a well established practice at Benton Ridge, was born at Butler, Butler County, Pa., March 10, 1869, and is a son of E. L. and Elvina (McJunkin) Varnum, both of whom are deceased.

Dr. Varnum attended the public schools and later an academy at Prospect, Pa., after which he read medicine with a local practitioner and then entered the Medical Department of the Western Reserve University, Cleveland, O. He located first at Belmore, in Putnam County, but two years later came to Benton Ridge and has remained here ever since, identifying himself with the various interests of the place and yearly adding both personal and professional friends to his circle of acquaintance.

In 1893, Dr. Varnum was married to Miss Lulu M. Cherry, a daughter of Robert N. Cherry, of Benton Ridge, and they have one son, Robert O. Dr. and Mrs. Varnum attend the Methodist Episcopal church. In politics he is a Republican but his interest in public matters is merely that of good citizenship. He belongs to the Hancock County, the Ohio State and the American Medical Associations.

P. J. GRESSLY, whose finely improved farm of 280 acres lies in Sections 5 and 6, Union Township, Hancock County, O., is a native of Union Township, born in 1879, and is a son of Jacob and Martha I. (West) Gressly.

Jacob Gressly was born in Pickaway County,

O., and was only four years old when he accompanied his parents to Hancock County and they were pioneers in Union Township, settling on a farm just south of the one above mentioned. Grandfather Henry Gressly died in Hancock County. Jacob Gressly followed farming all his active life, becoming one of the largest land owners in Hancock County. His standing as a citizen was high and he served as trustee of Union Township. He died at Findlay, O., August 25, 1909, at the age of sixty-five years. He married Martha I. West, who was born in Hancock County in 1845, a daughter of John and Catherine West. She resides in Union Township.

P. J. Gressly attended the country schools through boyhood and ever since has been interested in farm pursuits and is numbered with the most progressive and enterprising agriculturists of Union Township. His crops and cattle, together with his buildings and general surroundings indicate thrift, care and prosperity. In 1908 he erected a barn which is fitted up with all modern improvements, one of the best in the township.

Mr. Gressly was married October 21, 1903, to Miss Grace Baldwin, who was born, reared and educated in Blanchard Township, Hancock County, and is a daughter of Allen and Mary Ann Baldwin, the former of whom died May 9, 1893. Mrs. Baldwin survives and resides at Benton Ridge, O. Mr. and Mrs. Gressly are members of the Church of God, in Union Township, and he is superintendent of the Sunday-school.

DANIEL SHOOP, one of the representative citizens of Pleasant Township, Hancock County, O., owns 104 acres of valuable land, on which he carries on general farming. He was born in Lancaster County, Pa., November 12, 1840, and is a son of Jonas and Nancy (Goss) Shoop.

The parents of Mr. Shoop moved to Hancock County in 1842 and settled in Portage Township where the father purchased a farm of forty acres. There both parents died, the father being aged seventy-three years and the mother seventy-one years. There were five children, Daniel being the youngest born. The others were: Joseph, who went to California during the gold excitement and died there; Elizabeth, deceased, who was the wife of Charles Deitzman, lived in Michigan where both died; Annie, who married Henry Miller, is deceased, as is also her husband; and Jonas, who died in 1865, while serving in the Civil War. He went out from Portage Township and never married.

Daniel Shoop grew to manhood in Portage Township and worked for his father on the farm until he was master of his own time. He learned the carpenter trade and worked at the same for eighteen years. His instructor was Jacob Slupe, a well known citizen of this county. Mr. Shoop assisted in the building of houses and barns all through this section and worked when the lumber was all dressed by hand. There are a number of residences standing in McComb that Mr. Shoop helped to lay out, build and superintend and their stability proves his skill and honest work. As he acquired capital, for Mr. Shoop is a self made man and has earned every dollar he owns by his individual effort, he invested in land, his first purchase being forty acres in Portage Township which he sold when he moved to his present farm in Pleasant Township, in 1901. He has all but six acres under cultivation. When he first came here he began to drain his

CHARLES H. SHULER

land as had the older settlers, with pole and timber drains, but was one of the first to put down tile in the county. He can remember when the landscape presented a very different appearance than at present and when he was a boy heavy timber covered the greater part of the county and so much of it was under water that the name of the Black Swamp was given to miles and miles of what is now the most fertile land in this whole section. He has lived in Hancock County for sixty-eight years and enjoys the reputation of being one of its best and most reliable citizens. In all his business dealings he has been honest and straightforward and on any question there is never any doubt where he stands. This sincerity has brought him the confidence of his fellow citizens.

In 1868, Mr. Shoop was married to Miss Emma Miller, of Portage Township and two children were born to them: Joseph Edwin and Martha. Joseph Edwin resides in Portage Township. He married Millie Shanninghouse and they have five children: William, Dorothy, Harry, Lois and Clara. Martha is the wife of Aaron Collingwood, of Liberty Township, and they have one living child, Harry Collingwood. Mr. Shoop's first wife died April 29, 1887. In 1898 he was married to Miss Phebe Insley, a daughter of Zacharias Insley. They attend the Lutheran church.

CHARLES H. SHULER, a representative business man of McComb, O., where he has resided for the past twelve years, has large grain and elevator interests in Pleasant Township and as a business man is known all over Hancock County. He was born on West Crawford Street, Findlay, O., August 17, 1866, and is a son of Henry and Elizabeth (Cunningham) Shuler.

Henry Shuler was born in Westmoreland County, Pa., August 10, 1823, and died September 13, 1900. He came first to Hancock County in 1853. He was a miller by trade and for some years lived at different points beside Findlay, but later moved on the Judge Cary farm, near Findlay and in 1883 purchased eighty acres of it, then forty, and later another forty, making 160 acres in all, and resided continuously on it from 1884. The work of clearing, ditching and improving has been done by his sons, the land at the time of purchase being practically entirely unimproved, there being no fences on the land and no buildings with the exception of a small saw mill. Henry Shuler was twice married. His first wife was Margaret Funck, a daughter of Abraham Funck, and the following children were born to them: Josiah, who lives at Swanton, O.; Mary, who is the wife of Pulaski Harmon, lives in Putnam County; Sylvanus Webb, who lives at Findlay; Tillman Abraham, who is a miller, lives at Norwich, Kan.; Emeline, who is deceased, was the wife of Jasper Walters; and William Wood, who is an attorney at law and is also a successful business man, resides at Oklahoma City, Okla. The second marriage of Henry Shuler was to Elizabeth Cunningham, who was born in Pennsylvania, a daughter of William Cunningham. She is also deceased. The children of this marriage were as follows: Isaac T., who resides on the farm in Pleasant Township; Alice M., who is the wife of Benjamin Dice, of Pleasant Township; Charles Henry; John F., who is a farmer; Daniel C., who is in the grain business; Susan, who is the wife of Paul Vance, now of East Chicago, Ill., formerly of Toledo, O.; and Freddie, deceased, who was a twin brother of

Susan. The parents were members of the Church of God.

Charles H. Shuler attended the public schools of Findlay and started his business life as a worker in the oil fields. For the past eighteen years he has been in the grain business and has made a success of it. In the spring of 1903, he built his elevator on the Shuler farm and there handles about 125,000 bushels of grain annually. He is considered an exceptional business man.

On December 30, 1891, Mr. Shuler was married to Miss Delphia Strouse, a daughter of Peter Strouse, of Pleasant Township, and they have had six children: Harvey Earl, who is deceased; Ina Pearl, an attractive school girl of fifteen years; Arthur Dales, who is a bright youth of thirteen years; Nellie Ruth, who is aged eleven; Charles Ernest, who is eight years old; and Ralph Eugene, who has passed his sixth birthday. Educational and social advantages await them and they give promise of becoming worthy successors of their parents. In politics Mr. Shuler is a Republican as was his father. With his family he belongs to the Presbyterian church.

ALFRED W. BALSLEY, M. D., physician and surgeon, with offices in the Rawson Block on South Main Street, Findlay, O., has been established in practice here since 1899 and has been a resident of Hancock County since he was four years old. He was born at Fremont, O., November 14, 1872, and is a son of Alfred and Lucy (Wickham) Balsley.

For many years the father of Dr. Balsley was prominent in journalistic circles in Ohio and at one time conducted a number of newspapers in the smaller towns of this section of the state and was also identified with the Journal at Fremont as editor and proprietor. In 1880 he founded the Jeffersonian, which was the pioneer daily paper of Findlay. He was also a factor in Republican politics and under the administration of President Grant, served as postmaster at Plymouth, O. He located at Findlay in 1876 and his death occurred here in 1904. His widow survives.

Alfred W. Balsley was reared at Findlay and in 1892 he was graduated from the Findlay High School. His father owned a tract of twenty acres, one-half of which lay within the city limits and the other half outside, and during his youth he spent some of his time on the farm and also became well acquainted with the work in the printing office. In the meanwhile he was making preparations to enter medical college and in the fall of 1894 he became a student in the medical department of the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, where he was graduated with the class of 1899, immediately afterward locating at Findlay. His early preceptor at Findlay was Dr. J. C. Tritch.

Dr. Balsley enjoys a generous amount of practice among people who have known him almost all his life and not only have confidence in him professionally but also esteem him personally. He resides on Balsley Avenue, the beautiful avenue having been named in honor of his father. He is a Knight of Pythias and a Mason, belongs to the Tribe of Ben Hur and also to the American Insurance Union and is examiner and cashier of the last named body. In politics he is a Republican and in 1902, under Governor Nash, he was elected county coroner of Hancok County and was elected to a second term. He keeps in close touch with all developments in medical science and is a member of the Hancock County, the Ohio State and the National Medical Societies.

On June 8, 1910, Dr. Balsley married Miss Gertrude E. Alge, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Alge, residents of Findlay.

LEMUEL C. ILER, a well known citizen of Marion Township, Hancock County, O., owning a valuable farm of 120 acres, situated in Section 28, devotes it largely to dairy purposes. Mr. Iler was born on this farm, September 19, 1872, and has practically spent all his life here. His parents were Jackson and Abigail T. (Hallowell) Iler.

Jackson Iler was also born on this farm, a son of Jacob and Mary (McClain) Iler, the former of whom was born in Pickaway County. Jacob Iler, father of Jacob, was the one who entered the land and it has never been out of the family name. Both Jacob Iler and his son Jacob died in the log cabin that was first built when the forest covered all this land. To Grandfather Jacob Iler the following children were born: Jackson, Jacob, Mary Ann, Susan, Catherine, Louisa and Lewis. Jackson Iler was also born in the old log house and his life was spent in the cultivation and improvement of this farm. He married Abigail T. Hallowell, a daughter of Charles and Mary Hallowell. His death occurred of paralysis when aged sixty-two years. They had two children: Lemuel Conrad and an infant.

Lemuel C. Iler was educated in the district schools and at Findlay College and then taught school for twelve years very successfully and during that time made many friends who have continued such to the present day. At the death of his father he came into possession of the farm which is now known as Brookdale, and since 1908 he has been in the dairy business, on a moderate scale and operates a milk route to Findlay.

On June 17, 1896, Mr. Iler was married to Miss Frances H. Roth, a daughter of Adam and Margaret (Rowe) Roth, and they have four children: Homer, Fred, Harry and Frank. Mr. and Mrs. Iler are members of the United Brethren church, of which he is a trustee and for seven years he has been superintendent of the Sunday-school. In politics he is a Republican and for four years has been township clerk. He is identified with the Odd Fellows and the Foresters, both at Findlay.

ELMER HILTY, county surveyor of Hancock County, O., and a graduated engineer, was elected to this important public office on the Democratic ticket and assumed the duties of the same on September 6, 1909. He was born in Orange Township, Hancock County, O., March 16, 1880, and is a son of John and Mary (Thut) Hilty, who still reside in Orange Township.

Elmer Hilty was reared on the home place and attended the country schools. Finding himself ambitious for another career than that of farmer, he set about preparing for securing a technical education. After teaching school for six years he entered the Ohio Northern University at Ada, and was graduated in the class of 1904, having given his attention to the scientific and engineering courses. In the same year he was appointed deputy county surveyor and served as such until 1906, under County Surveyor Bolton, and from then until 1909 he was engaged in railroad work. His ability is recognized and seemingly his future professional success is assured.

Mr. Hilty married Miss Gertrude Linn, a daughter of Henry Linn and they have one child, Mary Catherine.

WESLEY CLARK, who resides upon his valuable farm of eighty-seven and one-half acres of land situated in Section 19 and 30, Portage Township, Hancock County, O., was born on a farm in Liberty Township, November 27, 1873, and is a son of Charles and Rosa (Hart) Clark.

Charles Clark was brought to Liberty Township, Hancock County, in boyhood. His father was Daniel Clark, one of the early settlers. Charles Clark and wife reside in Liberty Township, where he owns two valuable farms, and owns also a farm in Pleasant Township and still another large farm which is situated in Putnam County. He married a sister of John and Isaac Hart, both of whom are leading men of this section.

Wesley Clark was reared in Liberty Township and, with the exception of three years during which he worked in the oil fields, he has always been a farmer. He came to his present farm in April, 1898, and immediately began to make improvements which include the building of a barn and other structures and the rebuilding of the farm-house. He carries on a general farming line and is one of the representative agriculturists of the township.

Mr. Clark was married March 17, 1898, to Miss Nellie Insley, a daughter of Martin Insley, and they have three children: Ralph, Glen and Esther May. Mr. Clark is a member of the order of Maccabees at McComb.

SAMUEL S. PLETCHER, who is engaged in agricultural pursuits on a farm of eighty acres, located in Section 5, Allen Township, has been a resident of this neighborhood since the fall of 1900, and was born January 26, 1855, on a farm in Bloom Township, Wood County, O., and is a son of Christopher and Margaret (Hunsicker) Pletcher.

Christopher Pletcher and wife were both born and reared in Pennsylvania, but were married in Wood County, O. He followed farming until the latter part of his life, and at the time of his death was engaged in running an ashery at Van Buren, O. His widow subsequently married John Fox, who for many years was janitor of the college at Findlay, O. She purchased a farm near North Baltimore. In 1905, when returning from the church at North Baltimore she was killed by a B. & O. train.

Samuel S. Pletcher was about twelve years old at the time of his father's death, after which he went to work for old Johnny Ho, who lived near the Ten Mile church in Pleasant Township. Three years later he went to work for Mrs. Hannah Kagy, with whom he remained about three years and then worked out by the month until the time of his marriage. He began housekeeping on the John Hudson farm in Allen Township and about eighteen months later purchased a house and lot in Van Buren, O., where he resided one year. He then sold his property and for two years rented and farmed the Trout farm, in Allen Township, after which he rented his mother's farm of ninety-six acres, which was located one mile south of McComb. Eighteen months later his mother sold the farm, and he rented his brother's farm, which was three miles east of Belmore, for two years. He bought a house and several acres of land at Republic, Seneca County, O., and after

farming that one year or more, removed to Bairdstown, Wood County, where he ran a meat market for two years, when he disposed of it, and for eight years rented the Adams farm of 240 acres in Bloom Township, Wood County. In 1900 he located on his present farm, which he had bought the year before, and has since carried on general farming here. He has greatly improved the place, remodeled the house, done considerable tiling, and otherwise made his property more valuable.

In 1877, Mr. Pletcher was united in marriage with Emma J. Drew, a daughter of Horace Drew, who is a veteran of the Civil War, and resides with our subject. Four children were reared by Mr. and Mrs. Pletcher: Horace Franklin, who died in June, 1906, left a widow, Sadie (Barnd) Pletcher, and two children, May and Samuel, the latter of whom has been adopted by our subject and wife; Henry Irwin, a barber, of Van Buren, O., married Edith Hedge and has two children, Horessa and Emmeline Irvina; Callie, and Horessa. They belong to the United Brethren church of Van Buren.

COLLIN D. HAYWARD, dealer in lumber and coal, with business quarters on Crystal Street, Findlay, O., is a thoroughly representative citizen and is serving in his second term on the city council. He was born at Kellysville, Ashtabula County, O., in 1859, and is a son of Samuel Hayward.

The father of Mr. Hayward was born in St. Lawrence County, N. Y., in 1826. In manhood he located at Conneaut, Ashtabula County, O., where he engaged in the banking business and became a prominent figure in politics, serving in the state legislature. He died in 1885, at the age of fifty-nine years.

Collin D. Hayward was reared and educated at Conneaut. When twenty years of age he went to Chicago and for two years was with the great mercantile house of Marshall Field & Co. In 1885 he came to Findlay and has resided here ever since and has identified himself with the leading interests of this section. In addition to his lumber and coal enterprise he is vice president of the Buckeye Traction Ditcher Company, which is the largest independent manufacturing concern at Findlay, makers of the famous Buckeye Traction Ditcher, the demand for which is world-wide. At present his company gives employment to about 200 men and when contemplated additions to the plant are finished, there will be 400 men employed. It is in a very prosperous condition, its business outlook being favorable in every way.

Mr. Hayward was married in 1907 to Miss Clara M. Coburn, who was born at Bradford, Pa., but has been a resident of Findlay since 1890. Mr. and Mrs. Hayward have one child, Rachel. In politics he is a Republican and on that ticket was elected councilman-at-large and has been a useful and effective official. He is identified with the Elks.

REV. T. R. STEINER, one of Union Township's most esteemed citizens, is a minister in the Church of God and has been a member in the same since he was fourteen years of age. He resides on his valuable farm of 100 acres, which is situated in Section 7, Union Township, Hancock

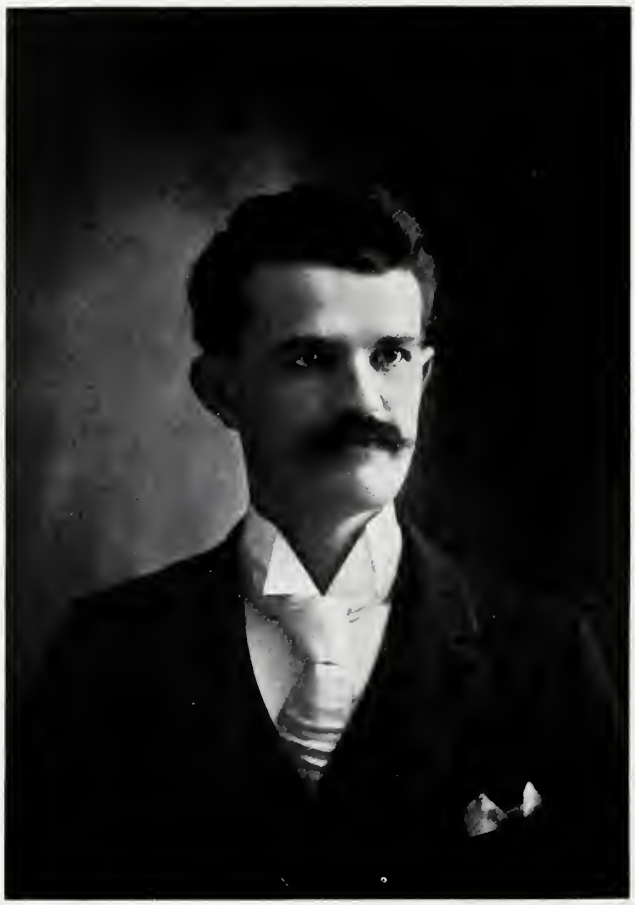
County, O. He was born in Riley Township, Putnam County, O., December 1, 1858, and is a son of Rev. I. and Mary P. (Rothen) Steiner. The father was born in Wayne County, O., and was a preacher and farmer.

T. R. Steiner obtained his early education in the schools of Riley Township and later, between 1876 and 1882, attended at irregular intervals as his other duties permitted, the sessions of the Ada Normal School. He taught six winter terms of school in Riley Township and in Richland Township, in Allen County, and proved his ability as an instructor. He has always been interested in educational matters and in 1909 was elected president of the school board of Union Township. In 1907 he was ordained a minister in the Church of God, in which he had been an elder for many years, and he has charge of a congregation near Convoy, O. Following his marriage he settled on his present farm which lies three and one-half miles north and two and one-half miles west of Mt. Cory. This is a very valuable property, being improved in every way, excellent fencing, perfect tiling and modern attractive buildings. General farming is carried on and the place is well stocked.

Mr. Steiner was married December 18, 1884, to Miss Mary S. Green, whose parents were well known people in this section. Five children make up the family, namely: Raymond W., who attended Findlay College for six years; Otto B., who attended the same institution for three years; and Lloyd G., Ralph and Herold, all living at home. Mr. Steiner has never taken an active part in politics but he is a good citizen and served very acceptably as township trustee from 1903 to 1905.

A. H. GOOD, general manager and half owner of the Risser & Good grain elevator, at Jenera, O., is also cashier of the Farmers' Bank Company and is one of the most enterprising business men of this thriving little city. He was born July 14. 1864, in Putnam County, O., and is a son of Ashford and Catherine (Dicus) Good, the former a native of Franklin County, O., and the latter of Champaign County. The father died when our subject was less than one year old and the mother resides on the old home farm in Putnam County, O. She is the mother of five children, all of whom are still living.

A. H. Good was reared and educated in Putnam County, and remained on the home farm until thirty years of age, then located ten miles west of Columbus Grove. In 1900 he came to Jenera, where he formed a partnership with Mr. Risser and purchased the present Risser & Good grain elevator, which they have operated continuously and successfully since that time. On November 11, 1902, he organized the Farmers' Bank, a private bank of Jenera, with four stockholders, and the following officers were elected: John Von Stein, president; John Heldman, first vice president; A. J. Grossman, second vice president, and A. H. Good, our subject, cashier. They erected the present bank building in 1905, and in January, 1909, incorporated as the Farmers' Bank Company with a capital stock of $25,000 with eleven stockholders, which have since been decreased to ten. Mr. Good, with three others, is also interested



J. W. H. BEACH, M. D.

in a Texas ranch and rice field of 1,240 acres. Mr. Good is a man of public spirit and enterprise and is recognized as one of the most progressive and substantial business men of Jenera, O.

Mr. Good was united in marriage with Miss Mary E. Brenner, who is a daughter of ex-Senator Simon Brenner, of Dayton, O. No children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Good.

J. W. H. BEACH, M. D., who has been successfully engaged in the practice of medicine at Arlington, O., since April, 1898, was born in Crawford County, O., December 6, 1872, and is a son of Frederick and Martha (Feick) Beach.

Reinhart Beach, grandfather of Dr. Beach, was a native of Germany, and came to Crawford County, O., at an early period where he entered a tract of 160 acres of farm land from the Government in Vernon Township. There he spent the remainder of his life and died in 1885. Frederick Beach, father of subject, was born November 7, 1837, in Crawford County, O., where he has always lived and where he follows farming.

J. W. H. Beach was reared in Vernon Township, Crawford County, O., and after completing the elementary course in the common schools, attended the High School of Crestline, O., for three years. In 1891 and 1892 he took a general course of study in the Normal School at Crestline, and in 1895 entered the Medical College at Fort Wayne, Ind., now known as the Purdue University, and on March 14, 1898, received a diploma for the practice of medicine. Dr. Beach came to Arlington, O., on April 27, 1898, and has since been located here in the practice of his profession.

On April 25, 1900, Dr. Beach was joined in marriage with Miss Florence N. Reigle, who was born September 11, 1876, at Arlington, where she was reared, and is the youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. P. A. Reigle. Her father was one of the best known stock buyers in Northwestern Ohio and died at his home near Arlington at the age of seventy years, three months and twenty-three days. One child, who died at the age of ten days, was born to Dr. and Mrs. Beach. Dr. Beach is a member of the German Reform church, and Mrs. Beach holds membership with the Methodist Episcopal church of Arlington.

EPHRAIM M. WARFEL, proprietor of the jewelry store located at No. 208 South Main Street, Findlay, O., has been established in business in this city since 1894 and enjoys a liberal amount of patronage on account of the reliable goods he carries and his honorable methods of disposing of them. He was born in one of the small villages of Lancaster County, Pa., January 30, 1843, and is a son of Abraham M. and Fannie (Maynard) Warfel.

When six years old, the mother of Mr. Warfel died and he was reared under the care of a step-mother. She saw that he attended school during some years of boyhood and he continued to work on a farm until he was twenty-one years of age, when he learned the flour mill business. For three years he worked in a flour-mill in his native county and then was employed at Knoxville, Ill., working in a mill at first in which he later bought a half interest, this being called the City Mill. After a residence of eleven years at Knoxville he sold his interests and moved to Galesburg, Ill.,

and was employed three years in a mill at that point and then leased a mill at Rushville and worked there as a mechanical engineer, and came from there to Findlay and embarked in his present line of business.

Mr. Warfel was married (first) in Lancaster County, Pa., to Miss Eliza Dritch, who died in 1893. They had three children: Elmer E., who lives at Pasadena, Calif.; Lizzie, who is deceased, was the wife of Frank Black; and Harvey Clyde, who learned the watchmaking trade at Rushville and is associated with his father. Mr. Warfel was married (second) to Mrs. Elizabeth M. Knapp, a native of Vermont. She was the widow of Dr. Frank Knapp, formerly of Findlay. They are members of the First Methodist Episcopal church, and Mr. Warfel is a class leader and is also president of its board of trustees.

SAMUEL M. BIBLER, whose well improved farm of forty acres is situated in Pleasant Township, Hancock County, O., is a representative agriculturist of this section in which he has made his home for many years. He was born in Fairfield County, O.

The parents of Mr. Bibler were also natives of Fairfield County and the father died there. The mother died at the home of her son Samuel B., in June, 1908, aged eighty-four years. They had five children to die in infancy and those who survive are: William, who lives in Pleasant Township, northwest of McComb; Frank, who is a farmer in Jackson Township; Clinton, who is a resident of Findlay; Etta, who is the wife of John Wright, of Fairfield County; and Samuel M.

Samuel M. Bibler came to Hancock County in 1875 and his first employer was Charles Thomas, whose farm was situated one and one-half miles east of Findlay, and with him he remained for eight months, then worked for the same period for Alfred Wilkes and for eighteen months for W. B. Miller. In 1884 he was married and for two years afterward lived on Mr. Miller's farm and operated it. In April, 1889, together with his father-in-law he purchased the John King farm and since April, 1890, has been located on his present farm in Pleasant Township. Here he replaced both the house and barn and has made many other improvements. General farming and moderate stock raising have been the industries which have claimed his attention for the past twenty-one years.

Mr. Bibler was married on November 13, 1884, to Miss Louie Baker, a daughter of Aaron Baker, of Findlay Township, Hancock County, and they have three daughters: Maud; Hazel, who is the wife of Cecil King, a resident of Pleasant Township and they have had two children—Dorothy Caroline and Lucile, the latter deceased; and Ethel, who is a school girl of twelve years. Mr. Bibler and family attend the Methodist Episcopal church at McComb. In politics he is nominally a Democrat but usually exercises his own good judgment in casting his vote, demanding that candidates shall be well qualified for the offices they seek and able to show an honorable past record.

JOHN HART, who is one of the three members making up that civic body, the Board of Review, of Findlay, O., came to this city from his farm, in the fall of 1894. He was born on a farm in Portage Township, Hancock County, O., in an old pioneer log house, March 7, 1843, and is a son of Abraham and Christina (Lynn) Hart.

Abraham Hart was born in Pennsylvania and his wife in Maryland. They were married in Ashland County, O., and in 1841 came to Hancock County and settled on a wilderness farm in Portage Township. He had to chop a clearing on which to erect his cabin but he lived to not only see his whole 160 acres cleared but also cultivated and improved. Abraham Hart was born June 8, 1815, and he died September 29, 1885, surviving his wife, who was born in 1809, for two years. They had a large family, six of whom reached maturity and four are yet living. Elizabeth became the wife of Abraham Bayles. She was born January 28, 1840, and died November 4, 1869. John was the second of the family. Isaac, who was born June 13, 1845, survives. Lucinda, who was born December 31, 1847, became the wife of Benjamin Huntwork, and after his death married John Dishong, who is also deceased. She died November 7, 1895. Rosanna, who was born December 15, 1850, became the wife of Charles Clark. Sarah Ann, who was a twin sister of Rosanna, became the wife of William Moorehead.

John Hart grew to manhood on the home farm and attended the country schools. The opening of the Civil War found him ready to offer his services but he was not able to arrange to go before August, 1862, being not quite nineteen years of age, when he enlisted in Co. F, 21st O. Vol. Inf., his first period covering one year. In April, 1864, he enlisted again, entering Co. G, 133rd O. Vol. Inf., and served 100 days. Mr. Hart was fortunate enough to escape all injuries, although often in danger, and returned home safely.

On October 1, 1868, Mr. Hart was married to Miss Eliza J. Taylor, a daughter of Washington Taylor, of Hancock County, and they have three children: Charles Austin, who is married and lives at Findlay; and Violet Olive and Eva Belle.

Immediately after marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Hart moved to his farm in Liberty Township and went to housekeeping in a log house, which, in the course of time gave way to a commodious brick residence, two stories in height, the building of which cost Mr. Hart $4,000. He made many other fine improvements, put the entire eighty-four acres under a fine state of cultivation and there carried on farming and sheep raising. He still owns the farm and has fourteen light-producing oil wells on the property. With his wife he owns the handsome family residence at No. 506 North Main Street, Findlay, together with a house and lot on North Cory Street. Both in Liberty Township and in Findlay he has been an active and useful citizen. In the former he served twenty-one years as township trustee and resigned the office when he came to this city, where he has been a member of the city council and is serving in his second term on the Board of Review, his associates being P. B. Arnold and David L. Grable. He is one of the representative men of Hancock County.

E. W. BURKET, who is owner and proprietor of the largest grocery store at Rawson, O., where he is one of the leading and representative citizens, was born in Union Township, Hancock County, O., October 27, 1867, and is a son of Jacob and Elizabeth (Walter) Burket.

Jacob Burket was also born in Union Township and now lives retired at Rawson. He was engaged in agricultural pursuits during the entire period of active life. He married Elizabeth Walter, who was born in Blanchard

Township and has spent her whole life in Hancock County.

E. W. Burket was mainly educated in the Rawson schools and from being a pupil he became a teacher and a very acceptable one. He taught four terms at Seton, Ill., and one term in District No. 1, in Union Township, Hancock County. In the fall of 1891 he started into business at Rawson, invested largely in property and became an active and enterprising citizen. He is a Democrat in politics and in 1906 was elected mayor of the town and was reelected in 1908. In 1898 he was elected a justice of the peace and for the past ten years has been a notary public. Mr. Burket has carried on his business at Rawson for the past nineteen years. He owns one of the largest business blocks in the town, the property which he occupies himself and also seventeen acres of land lying on the corporation lines of Rawson. In addition to dealing in groceries, he handles hardware.

On January 21, 1891, Mr. Burket was married to Miss Alpha M. Werts, of Sunbeam, Ill., a daughter of George W. and Mary (Decker) Werts, natives of Zanesville, O. The mother of Mrs. Burket died at Aledo, Ill., in February, 1906, and the father still resides at Aledo. Mr. and Mrs. Burket have three children: Firm C., Ruth M., and Leslie V. Mr. Burket and family belong to the United Brethren church at Rawson, with which he has been identified for ten years. For twenty years he has belonged to Lodge No. 410, Knights of Pythias at Rawson, in which he has filled every office.

CHARLES KILGOUR, chief engineer of the Toledo, Bowling Green & Southern Traction Company, who also operate the street railway system of Findlay and the Findlay-Mortimer Line, has been identified with this concern since 1905 and has been a resident of Findlay since that date.

Charles Kilgour was born in Cincinnati, O., and obtained his education in the schools of that city and in eastern institutions. Mr. Kilgour is a practical electrician and has been associated with various traction and electric light concerns since 1889, commencing his career in that line of business with the old Thompson-Houston Company of Lynn, Mass. This company later consolidated with the Edison Company, the consolidated firm being known as the General Electric Company of Schenectady, N. Y., with whom our subject was later employed on the road, installing machines in various parts of the country. Mr. Kilgour came to Findlay in 1905 and since that time has had charge of the engineering department of the Toledo, Bowling Green and Southern Traction Company, whose main offices are located in Cincinnati, O. Besides their other railway interests the company also operate the electric light plant and hot water heating systems of Findlay.

Mr. Kilgour was united in marriage with Miss Lucile Dolly. He is fraternally a Mason and a member of the B. P. O. E.

JOHN WORTMAN, one of the best known and most respected citizens of Blanchard Township, Hancock County, O., who, in association with his son, E. C. Wortman, is equal owner of a farm of 160 acres, was born September 10, 1825, in Lawrence County, Pa. Mr. Wortman came to Hancock County, O., in 1857 and settled in Blanchard Township on the farm on which he now lives. When he purchased his land it was almost a wilderness and it required many years of diligent attention and hard work to clear and improve it.

He has been satisfied to devote it to general farming and stock raising and has never made any tests for oil or gas. He still has thirty acres in timber.

Mr. Wortman was married in Pennsylvania to Miss Julia Dilworth, a daughter of Robert and Katherine Dilworth, of Lawrence County, Pa. She died in 1896 and her burial was at McComb, O. She was a most estimable lady, a consistent member of the Presbyterian church, a good neighbor and a faithful and tender wife and mother. She has one surviving sister, Miss Angie E. Dilworth, who taught twenty-five terms of school in Hancock County and is very highly thought of. To Mr. and Mrs. Wortman three children were born: Mary Ellen, E. C., and Florence E. Mary Ellen died at the age of sixteen years. E. C., who is half owner of the home farm, is a prominent citizen of the township of which he has served as supervisor. He devotes himself to farm pursuits and taught school for four winters in Blanchard Township. He is a stockholder in the Farmers' Mutual Telephone Company of McComb. He is unmarried. Florence E. married M. J. Fenstermaker and they live in Putnam County, and have one child, Hazel Glenn.

John Wortman has been identified with the Republican party since its formation and in earlier years took an active part in public affairs. In 1880 he was elected land appraiser of the township, served several terms as township trustee and also as justice of the peace. He has contributed liberally to the support of the Presbyterian church at McComb, in which he is an elder.

GEORGE J. HORN, architect and builder, who has been engaged in business at Findlay, O., since 1885, has been a resident of Hancock County during his entire life. He was born on a farm in Cass Township, March 4, 1859, and is a son of John B. Horn.

John B. Horn was born in Germany, a son of Dr. John Jacob Horn, who was a very prominent physician at Findlay. John B. Horn was seven years old when his parents came to America and to Findlay in 1848. He was a farmer in Cass Township until 1860, when he moved to Findlay, where he was a carpenter and contractor.

George J. Horn attended the old Union school on Sandusky Street, Findlay, and, as a boy, showed remarkable talent for drawing and took more interest in designing than in any other study. He made his own drawing board, triangle and T-square and during the time he worked as a carpenter, displayed unusual exactitude in his measurements, these details coming to him naturally and easily. It has always been a matter of personal regret with Mr. Horn that at the beginning of his work as an architect he could not see his way clear to attend any technical school, but there are many in the profession at Findlay who did enjoy such advantages, who gladly avail themselves of Mr. Horn's natural talents when they have a difficult piece of work. He started out as an architect, with his self-acquired knowledge, in 1885, just in time to take advantage of the business "boom" that visited Findlay and continued through 1887, 1888, 1889 and 1890. During 1887 he designed and built over twenty business blocks in the city of Findlay alone. Subsequent years have also been busy ones and want of space makes it impossible to call attention to all of the fine work done by Mr. Horn, but these notable examples may be given: T. B. G. & S. T. Co. Power Station, General Offices and Car Barns; D. Kirk & Sons Co.,

wholesale grocery house; Rawson Block, in which Mr. Horn has his offices; Gray & Patterson Block; First National Bank (rebuilt); Fair Company Grand Stand and Training Stables; Buckeye National Bank (rebuilt); Electric Construction & Motor Co. Garage; and the rebuilding of the handsome residences of J. C. Donnell and William M. Tait. Mr. Horn combines architectural beauty with solid and practical construction in a way that is admirable from every standpoint.

Mr. Horn was married to Miss Etta B. Dickson, of Kenton, O., who died May 25, 1909, leaving one daughter, Georgetta, who resides with her father.

Mr. Horn has always been an active and interested citizen. In 1908 he was made a member of the Board of Public Service at Findlay and served two years. During this time, in a public spirited way, he endeavored to interest his fellow citizens in the project of appropriating a certain sum of money to be used for the erection of a memorial building to mark the site of old Fort Findlay, around which so much of the early history of the city centers. With this idea in view, he prepared a beautiful design, which, if eventually accepted, will be not only creditable to the city but will be but another proof of Mr. Horn's artistic skill. Mr. Horn is identified with the Knights of Pythias and the Elks.

EDWIN RUTHVEN HAY, who owns a valuable farm of 159 acres, situated in Section 30, Marion Township, Hancock County, O., is one of the leading and substantial citizens of this county and one of the largest tax payers of the township. He was born in the old log house then standing on his father's farm in Fairfield County, O., March 13, 1831, and is a son of Peter and Christina (Platter) Hay.

Peter Hay was born in Berks County, Pa., the youngest son of Adam and Mary Hay, who were natives of Germany, and died in Fairfield County. There Peter grew to manhood and died on the old home farm October 28, 1852, having purchased the interests of all the other heirs. He followed farming and stock raising. He married Christiana Platter, who was born at Maysville, Ky., a daughter of Peter and Sarah (Crabbs) Platter, who came from Germany. She survived her husband several years, dying in June, 1858, aged sixty-one years. Ten children were born to Peter Hay and his wife, namely: Joseph and Jonathan, both of whom are deceased; Margaret, who was the wife of N. Schley, both now deceased; Peter, who is deceased; Edwin Ruthven; Edward, who is deceased; Sarah, deceased, who was the wife of Daniel Schley; Zelda Ann, who died young; Meander, who resides in Fairfield County; and one that died in infancy.

Edwin R. Hay attended the district schools and also an academy at South Salem, in Ross County, after which he taught school for two winters in Fairfield County and proved very acceptable as a teacher. He followed farming in the summers up to 1862, when he enlisted for service in the Civil War then in progress, entering Co. C, 61st O. Vol. Inf., of which he was first sergeant-major and later second lieutenant, and held that rank in his company during the memorable second battle of Bull Run. After his military service was over he returned to Fairfield County and

MR. AND MRS. ERNEST E. URBAN

resumed farming and came from there to Hancock County in 1869.

On December 2, 1869, Mr. Hay was married to Miss Angelicie Frisbie, a daughter of Amos Frisbie. She died June 12, 1879, leaving two children, Abigail and Charles. Abigail married Dr. F. B. Entrikin, now deceased, a graduate of the Cincinnati Medical College and formerly a practitioner at Findlay. Two children survive him: Edwin Wayne and Lorain, both of whom live with Mr. Hay. Charles Hay lives also on the homestead and is his father's farmer. This place is the old Frisbie farm and the improvements which Mr. Hay has put here have made it one of the most valuable in the township. The residence is a handsome ten-room structure and it is surrounded by beautiful grounds which make it attractive. Mr. Hay has never cared for political office but he has always been an interested citizen and casts his vote with the Democratic party.

ERNEST E. URBAN, owner of 322 acres of rich farm land, situated in Union Township, Hancock County, O., has resided for twenty years on his farm of 122 acres located in Section 35, 160 acres being in Section 26, while in Section 34 lie the other forty acres. He was born in Findlay Township, Hancock County, October 10, 1854, and is a son of Andrew and Barbara (Haines) Urban.

The parents of Mr. Urban were born in Saxony, Germany, and they came to America and settled in Findlay Township, Hancock County, O., in 1838, where the mother died in 1883 and the father in 1887. He was a successful farmer and a respected citizen.

Ernest E. Urban was reared in Marion Township and obtained his schooling there. After he married he and his wife resided in Union Township for five years, then one year in Eagle Township, coming from there to the farm on which he lives, which lies four miles south of Rawson, on the Ridge road. He has made notable improvements here in the way of clearing, tiling and fencing, and has remodeled both house and barn. Everything is substantially built and thrift and good management are shown in all directions. He does general farming and raises cattle, sheep and hogs and in addition he has twenty-eight producing oil wells.

Mr. Urban is a man of independent means and he is also one of the representative citizens in all that pertains to the advancement of his township along practical lines.

On January 1, 1884, Mr. Urban was married to Miss Polena Schondlemyer, who was born in Marion Township and reared in Cass Township, Hancock County. Her parents were natives of Germany. Seven children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Urban: Cleveland C., Lawrence, Oran J., Ray G., Zoa M., Era E. and Andrew O. Lawrence married Miss Elsie Solt, of Eagle Township. Mr. Urban and family are members of the Evangelical church at Canonsburg, in which he has been a steward for sixteen years and a trustee of the township cemetery from 1907 to 1910.

LAWRENCE J. CRAWFORD, a well known building contractor of Van Buren, Hancock County, O., and the owner of 160 acres of farm land in Allen Township, has been engaged in the contracting business since seventeen years of age. He was born September 9, 1858, on a farm in Eagle Township and is a son of George W. and

Eliza (Smith) Crawford. His parents were both natives of Pennsylvania, who, after their marriage located in Richland County, O. The maternal grandfather was a man of prominence and wealth and spent his entire life in Pennsylvania. He gave a farm to each of his children, and upon the parents of our subject locating in Hancock County, gave them a tract of eighty acres in Eagle Township. This they sold in 1869 and purchased a tract of eighty acres in Allen Township about one mile west of Mortimer. Mrs. Crawford died in 1865, while the family still lived in Eagle Township, and in 1870, Mr. Crawford married Parmelia Sipes. In 1879 Mr. Crawford removed from the farm to Mortimer, O., where he died December 19, 1907.

Lawrence J. Crawford obtained his educational training in the district schools of Eagle and Allen Townships, and early in life began learning the carpenter's trade with George Mellott, in whose employ he continued four years. In 1876 he established a business for himself, and has been engaged continuously and successfully in general contracting since that time. He has erected many of the barns, residences and public buildings of Allen and surrounding townships, and also built many of the finest buildings of Van Buren, O. Some of the buildings erected by Mr. Crawford are: the Presbyterian church of Liberty Township, the Hagerty School of Liberty Township, the school of District No. 9 of Allen Township, and others too numerous to mention. Mr. Crawford also retains an interest in the old home farm in Allen Township, and in 1886 bought eighty acres of land two miles west of Van Buren, and ten years later bought an adjoining eighty acres.

Mr. Crawford served one term as township trustee of Allen Township, and was a candidate for county commissioner on the Democratic ticket in the fall of 1907, but was defeated. He is a member and elder of the Presbyterian church, of which he is clerk of the session.

Mr. Crawford was married to Anna Kuhlemeier, who was born in Toledo, O., and is a daughter of Frederick and Matilda Kuhlemeier, both natives of Denmark. Six children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Crawford: Howard, who is taking a course in music at the University of Wooster; Harold D.; L. Everett; Donald, and two who died in infancy.

JENS J. WAALAND, florist, with greenhouses and office at No. 123 East Front Street, Findlay, O., has been established in business in this city since October, 1905. He was born at Stavenger, Norway, April 27, 1866, and is a son of Lars L. and Helen (Ueland) Waaland. The father still follows farming and conducts a dairy, in his native land.

Jens J. Waaland was twenty-four years of age when he came to America, in 1890. He found his first greenhouse work at Toledo, O., and from there went to New York State and from there to Boston, Mass., working as a florist at each place he stopped, and then returned to Toledo and from there went to Fostoria, where he bought out two separate firms and continued in business for ten years, when he came to Findlay. He has first class quarters and all modern equipments including a fine hot

water system. He has six different glass covered rooms affording him 10,000 square feet of glass. Mr. Waaland does a very large retail business, deals in cut flowers suitable for every occasion and makes a specialty of funeral designs. He started into this business in Norway, in 1881, and has devoted himself to it ever since, succeeding not only on account of his knowledge and skill but because of his natural liking for it.

At Toledo, O., Mr. Waaland was married (first) to Miss Grace Mabel Errett, of Boston, Mass., who died at Findlay, Dec. 1, 1908. They had five children born to them: Harold, Norman, Erven, Robert and Walter. Mr. Waaland was married (second) to a widow, Mrs. Frederica (Gjesdal) Strand. Mr. Waaland is a member of a number of fraternal organizations, including the Knights of Pythias, the Maccabees, the Modern Woodmen, the Tribe of Ben Hur and the Turners. He is a highly respected citizen and prosperous business man.

JOSEPH EDWARD SHOOP, who resides on his valuable farm of 160 acres situated in Section 29, Portage Township, Hancock County, O., is one of the leading men of his neighborhood and is active in its public affairs. He was born on the William Brickman farm, in this township, January 1, 1871, and is a son of Daniel and Sarah E. (Miller) Shoop.

Daniel Shoop was born in Philadelphia and was a son of Joseph Shoop, who came to Portage Township in 1841, Daniel then being two years of age. Joseph Shoop entered, cleared and later improved the farm on which his grandson, Joseph E. Shoop, later was born, and continued to live there until his death. Daniel Shoop still lives and resides in Pleasant Township. He married Sarah E. Miller, who died in 1885. Her father was John S. Miller, of Hancock County.

Joseph Edward Shoop was reared in Portage Township and attended school during the usual boyhood term and then learned the carpenter trade. He has always been a busy, hard working man, working for three years as a carpenter and then laboring for seven years in the oil fields. Since then he has given his whole attention to farm work and has lived on different properties in the township, renting the McEnnally farm for seven years before he bought a farm of ninety-eight acres directly across from his present one, selling that place when he bought the 160 acres on which he lives, which was formerly known as the old Crumrine place. Here he carries on general farming and raises some excellent stock and is considered one of the representative successful agriculturists of this section.

Mr. Shoop married Miss Amelia Jane Sharninghouse, a daughter of William Sharninghouse, and they have five children: William Ray, Dorothy E., Clarence D., Trois May and Joseph Edward, Jr. Mr. Shoop and family are members of the German Lutheran church at McComb. He belongs to the fraternal order of Modern Woodmen of America. He is an intelligent, reliable and honest man and his fellow citizens make no msitake when they elect him to public office. At present he is serving in the office of land appraiser and

for four consecutive years he was personal tax assessor.

W. S. VAN HORN, M. D., physician and surgeon, with well appointed office at No. 510½ South Main street, Findlay, O., has been established in this city since 1888 and comands a large and lucrative practice. Dr. Van Horn was born on a farm in Amanda Township, Hancock County, O., three miles west of Vanlue, June 13, 1853, and is a son of James Moore and Mary Magdalene (Morehart) Van Horn.

James Moore Van Horn was a native of Bucks County, Pa., a representative of an old Dutch family that came to America from Holland in the 16th century. The founder of the family in Hancock County was the grandfather of Dr. Van Horn, Charles Van Horn, who came in 1832, when his son, James Moore, was six years old. He settled in Amanda Township and subsequently gave his name to the Van Horn church and cemetery, old landmarks there. James Moore Van Horn married a daughter of David Morehart, a native of Fairfield County, O., who was brought to Hancock County in her girlhood. Ten children were born to them, five sons and five daughters. The mother of this family died in 1901 and the father in 1903.

W. S. Van Horn remained on the home farm until he was twenty-seven years of age, in the meantime farming and teaching school alternately for six years. There were other sons, however, to carry on the farm and as his tastes lay in another direction, he began the study of medicine under Dr. J. A. Grove, at Mt. Blanchard and later attended the Eclectic Medical Institute at Cincinnati, O., where he was graduated in 1883. For five years he engaged in practice at Mt. Blanchard and then came to Findlay where he has continued to be actively engaged for the past twenty-two years. He is a member of the National, Ohio State and Northwestern Ohio Eclectic Medical Associations.

Dr. Van Horn married Miss Agnes Allison, of York County, Pa., and they have had four children: Nellie G., who is a graduate of the Eclectic Medical Institute of Cincinnati, is the wife of Dr. Bradstreet, a physician of Rochester, N. Y.; Allison Moore, who is a practicing physician at Findlay, occupying the same suite of offices as his father, is a graduate of the Eclectic Medical Institute at Cincinnati, married Gail Swartz and has two sons, Winfield S. and Bert; and Edna and Edith, twins, the latter of whom died when aged five years.

JOHN M. CRIST, who resides on a farm of 160 acres, which is owned by his father, situated in Eagle Township, seven miles south of Findlay, O., on the Washington road, and four miles east of Rawson, on the Rawson road, has lived here all his life, his birth having taken place December 3, 1871. His parents are E. E. and Rebecca (Friend) Crist.

E. E. Crist, who lives retired at Rawson, O., was born in 1842 on the farm in Eagle Township on which his son lives and on which his father, Simon Crist, settled about 1837 as a pioneer in this section. J. M. Crist, father of Simon, entered the land from the Government, securing it for $1.25 per acre, and he followed an agricultural life. E. E. Crist paid more attention to

stock buying and as he was successful in that line found it to his advantage to hire workers on the farm. In 1890 he retired to his present home at Rawson. He married Rebecca Friend, who was born in Indiana and died at Rawson, December 28, 1904.

John M. Crist obtained his education in the country schools. In the fall of 1895 he was married and started to housekeeping at Rawson but moved from there to the homestead soon afterward and since 1897 has rented the farm from his father and has carried on farming and stock raising very successfully, having many increases yearly to his herds and flocks. Since taking possession, Mr. Crist has put his heart into the work of improvement and has built a fine residence and substantial barn and has done a great deal of tiling. He has proved himself a capable, intelligent, wide awake, modern farmer.

To Mr. and Mrs. Crist six children have been born, namely: Nemo E., Waldo M., Harry E., Rema F., Leora M. and Howard Leroy. Mr. and Mrs. Crist are members of the Lutheran church in which both were reared by Christian parents.

AUGUSTUS M. SMITH, proprietor of the A. M. Smith Marble and Granite Works, at No. 132 West Crawford Street, Findlay, O., has been numbered with the representative business men of this city for over a quarter of a century. He was born at Cincinnati, O., July 19, 1854, and is a son of John and Sarah J. (Hopkins) Smith.

John Smith was born in Pennsylvania, in 1832, and died at St. Louis, Missouri, in 1855, having moved there from Dayton, O. He was a tailor by trade. He married Sarah J. Hopkins, who survived him, and they had two children: Augustus M. and Mrs. Fannie Price, the latter of whom died in 1895.

Augustus M. Smith was an infant when his parents moved to Dayton, O., and when about seven years of age he accompanied his widowed mother to Indianapolis, Ind., where they lived until 1869, when they moved to Cleveland, O. Before leaving Indianapolis, Mr. Smith had started to learn the stone cutter's trade and he completed his apprenticeship in Cleveland. In 1875 he came to Findlay and from July 1, 1875, until January 1, 1881, he had charge of the large marble works of Louthan & Son, leaving their employ to begin business for himself. Mr. Smith is one of the few practical marble and granite men who understand the business from one end to the other. He not only has learned all its mechanical details but thoroughly understands stone cutting, monument work, designing and mechanical drawing for monuments, mausoleums and every description of ornamental stone work. There are very few marble workers who are able to do their own designing or draw their own plans. He conducts the only stone yard at Findlay and gives steady employment all the year round to ten men. In addition to his stone work in regard to monuments, he does all kinds of stone contracting and a number of the leading buildings at Findlay have been erected with Mr. Smith as sub stone-contractor, and in this department he hires as many as forty men. Among the many buildings for which he has done the stone work may be mentioned: the Phoenix Inn; the stone block south of the Phoenix Inn; the Hyatt Block; the stone fronts on the Commercial Bank and Savings Company; the Buckeye National Bank and the City Banking Company. He has also done all the

stone work on the Findlay Post Office; the Patterson and Gray Block and on innumerable private residences. He ships monuments to all parts of the country.

Mr. Smith married Miss Julia A. Myer, of Wapakoneta, O. The three children of the family are named: Frank E., Harry A. and Chester P. Mr. Smith is affiliated fraternally with the Elks, the Knights of Pythias, the Odd Fellows, the Tribe of Ben Hur and the Woodmen of the World.

W. H. WITTENMYER, a representative business man of Benton Ridge, O., dealing in lumber, coal, cement blocks and building supplies of all kinds, being a contractor also in the same, is also sole owner of a valuable saw mill at this place. Mr. Wittenmyer was born in Seneca County, O., May 26, 1855, and is a son of Henry and Charlotte Wittenmyer.

When he was six years old, the parents of Mr. Wittenmyer moved to Clearfield County, Pa., and there he attended school and remained until he was twenty-one years of age. In 1876 he returned to Seneca County and for one year worked for his uncle, near Flat Rock, and then came to Benton Ridge where he worked for one year as a farmer and carpenter. He then moved to Wood County, O., where he had charge of a shingle mill for three years and then traded for a saw mill at Hoytsville, which he operated for six years and then rented it to his father and moved to his father-in-law's farm and operated it for eighteen years. When the latter died he moved to Benton Ridge and since 1908 has been identified with his present line of business. The mill was first started by the firm of George & Son and when Mr. George's son retired, Mr. Wittenmyer bought his interest and on November 15, 1909, he bought out the other interests and has continued sole owner. Together with the mill he bought an acre of land. He has equipments in the mill for custom sawing of all descriptions and can turn out fine planing mill work. Mr. Wittenmyer is not only an active and enterprising business man but he is also a progressive and reliable citizen and his value as such to his community is fully acknowledged. From January, 1908, until January, 1910, he served as mayor of the town and is now clerk of the school board. He is very active in Democratic circles and is a member of the township Democratic Central Committee. He has additional business interests, being president of the Benton Ridge Mutual Telephone Company.

Mr. Wittenmyer was married to Miss Clarinda Sager, a daughter of the late Rev. Jonathan Sager, a minister of the Evangelical Association, and they have seven children: B. C., Bessie P., George O., James Merle, Ethel E., Wm. L., and Mary L. Mr. and Mrs. Wittenmyer are members of the Evangelical church, in which he is chorister and of which he is a trustee. He is identified with the Maccabees and the Junior Order of United American Workmen.

Mr. Wittenmyer resides on Main Street, in what is considered the finest residence in the town.

WILLIAM C. NUSSER, superintendent of one of Findlay's most important public utilities, the city water works, has been identified with the water works department since July, 1889, and for nine years has been superintendent. Mr. Nusser was born at Findlay, Ohio, November 7, 1866, and is a son of Godfrey and Rebecca (Burns) Nusser. The father of Mr. Nusser, now deceased, was formerly a well

JOHN D. THOMAS

known contractor. The mother is still living.

William C. Nusser was reared at Findlay and attended the public schools. He then went to work in the gas works in his native city and remained an employe for four years, coming then to the water works department, by which he was engaged as a lineman. He continued in that position until he was appointed superintendent in 1901. The old office was in the Jones Block, near the First National Bank but as soon as the new city building was completed, which was in 1903, the water works offices were installed there. Mr. Nusser has had additional public duties, having been street commissioner since February 1, 1908, to April 1, 1910. In whatever position he is found there will be seen an efficient man, one whose value to his native city has been thoroughly tested and proved.

Mr. Nusser was married to Miss Charlotte J. Jacobs, of Findlay, who is deceased. His second marriage was to Miss Bessie E. Roberts, a daughter of David J. Roberts, of Findlay. Mr. Nusser has five children: Roy C., a bookbinder, who married Gertrude Buckingham, and resides at Marion, Ohio; and Alfred G., Earl, Wilbur and Miles. Mr. Nusser is a member of the order of Ben Hur, of the Odd Fellows, Encampment branch of the Masons, and of the B. P. O. E.

JOHN D. THOMAS, funeral director, who is engaged in business at McComb, O., was born in Indiana, May 24, 1855, and is a son of Benjamin and Marilla (Westbrook) Thomas.

Benjamin Thomas and his wife were both born in Morrow County, O., where the Thomas family was established by the grandparents of John D. Thomas, many years ago. They were John D. and Lena Thomas and were natives of Wales. When they came to Morrow County the land was yet so much of a wilderness that they could only safely make their way through the forests by blazing the trees as they pushed through. Benjamin Thomas assisted his father in clearing the farm. He resides with his son, John D. Thomas, being now aged eighty-five years. His wife died over fifty years ago. Four sons were born to them: Wilbur, who is a farmer in Morrow County; Martin, who was a resident of Detroit, Mich., for a number of years; Elmer, who lives in Morrow County; and John D., of McComb.

John D. Thomas was born while his parents were making a short sojourn in Indiana, but he was reared and educated in Morrow County. In August, 1878, Mr. Thomas was married to Miss Alice Needles, who died in November, 1900. Her father was Levi Needles, of Morrow County. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas had two daughters: Cora and Elise, both of whom reside with their father.

Mr. Thomas came to McComb from Fredericktown, in April, 1908. He took his examination as an embalmer at Zanesville, O., and received his license in 1902. He has a finely equipped establishment and has so gained the confidence of the public that calls come for his services from all this section. Mr. Thomas is identified with a number of fraternal bodies, including the Knights of Pythias, the Odd Fellows, the Modern Woodmen and the Maccabees. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. In politics he is a Republican.

J. N. LANNING, an enterprising farmer of Hancock County, residing on a farm of forty-eight acres located in Section 22, Marion Township, has been a life-long resident of this

county and was born October 24, 1844, a son of Gershom and Sarah (Swab) Lanning.

This branch of the Lanning family was established in Hancock County, O., at an early period by Isaac Lanning, who came from New Jersey and settled on a small farm in Eagle Township. He was a shoemaker by trade, which he followed, while his sons operated the farm. He was the father of five children, all of whom are deceased, namely: David, Gershom, Hiram, James and Margaret. Gershom Lanning was born in Fairfield County, O., in 1813, and during early manhood came to Hancock County with his parents and here followed his trade as a blacksmith and worked out by the day. He served in the Civil War, enlisting in Co. G., 57th O. Vol. Inf., and died in 1863, while in service. He was four times married, his first wife and mother of our subject, was Sarah Swab, who died in 1849 aged thirty-two years. Of their union were born four children: James W., who served in the 57th Ohio Vol. Inf., and died in the army; John Nelson, our subject; Sarah S., who is the widow of Andrew Shafer; and William. His second union was with Mary Bercaugh, by whom he had one son, William T. His third union was with Mrs. Mary Fellers, which resulted in the birth of one son, Jacob H. He later married a Mrs. Harris.

John Nelson Lanning at an early age started out in life for himself. At the age of eleven years he went to live with John Croft of Eagle Township and made his home there until twenty-two years of age. He attended the district schools of the township, the Findlay High School, and later took a course at the Ohio State Normal at Ada. He then engaged in farming during the summer months and taught school in Hancock County for twelve winters. In 1882, two years after his marriage, he abandoned teaching and purchased his present farm from U. H. Grable, and has since devoted his entire time to general farming.

On April 11, 1880, Mr. Lanning was joined in marriage with Julia A. Smith, a daughter of Isaac and Mary B. Smith, both of whom are deceased. Mr. Lanning is a man of public spirit and always takes an active interest in affairs pertaining to the welfare of the community in which he lives. He is a Democrat.

HON. S. E. LOWE, mayor of Mt. Blanchard, O., and the owner of a valuable farm of 160 acres in Jackson Township, Hancock County, O., was born and reared in Jackson Township, his birth taking place on October 18, 1851. His parents were William and Sarah (Hendrick) Lowe.

William Lowe was born in York County, Pa., and from there came to Hancock County and settled on a farm in Jackson Township in 1840. He was a man of local importance for a number of years, being enterprising and useful in his neighborhood. He followed farming.

S. E. Lowe was reared on the home farm and obtained a country school training in boyhood, after which he followed agricultural pursuits until 1900, when he moved to Mt. Blanchard. He has been an active and interested citizen and served two years on the town council before he was first elected mayor, in 1907. His administration of this office received public endorsement by his reelection. In politics he is a Democrat but in the governing of the city, Mayor Lowe has shown favor only to those office-holders who have demonstrated their efficiency in public matters, irrespective of party.

Mr. Lowe was married the first time to Miss

Susan Foster, who was born and reared in Jackson Township, and died at Mt. Blanchard in 1904, at the age of fifty-two years. Three children were born to that marriage, namely: Wesley M., who died at the age of five months; Lelia L., who died aged five months and twenty-six days; and Grover, who died aged two months. Mr. Lowe was married the second time to Miss Alice Sockrider and they have one daughter, Frances N. Mayor and Mrs. Lowe are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. He is identified with Lodge No. 481, Knights of Pythias, and with Lodge No. 344 Odd Fellows, both at Mt. Blanchard, and is chaplain of the latter organization.

ULYSSES GRANT GEISEY, a well known hardware merchant and highly esteemed citizen of Van Buren, has been constable of Allen Township for about twelve years and a resident of Hancock County since 1893. He was born April 4, 1869, in Westmoreland County, Pa., and is a son of John and Lydia (Garvin) Geisey, the former of whom was a bridge builder by trade and a veteran of the Civil War. John Geisey died December 21, 1907, at the age of seventy-two years, the cause of death being heart failure. His wife died August 4, 1907, of paralysis. They were married in 1858 and had twelve children, namely: "Bub," who is deceased; George Hamilton, Mrs. Ellen Lewis, Mrs. Harriet M. Wilson, Ulysses Grant, Harry, Luther H., Mrs. Molly M. Knox, Mrs. Martha J. Glasser, Mrs. Nellie V. Drum, Emma V. and A. Katherine. John Geisey had an enviable war record. He participated in thirty-two battles but was never wounded and never in the hospital, though his period of service covered three and a half years. He was a member of Co. C, 84th Pa. Vol. Inf., which was organized in Harrisburg, Pa. Company C was organized by J. J. Wirsing and William Logan and was named the Foster Guards, after Hon. H. D. Foster. Among the battles referred to in which Mr. Geisey participated were the following: Fredericksburg, Winchester, Fort Royal, Fort Republic, Second Bull Run, Chancellorsville, Kelly's Ford, Mine Run, the Wilderness, Spottsylvania, North Anna, Tolopotomy, Cold Harbor, Petersburg, Strawberry Plains, Deep Bottom and Poplar Spring Church. The 84th was consolidated with the 57th Pa. Vols., both regiments being nearly annihilated before the close of the struggle.

Ulysses Grant Geisey spent his early boyhood days in Westmoreland County, Pa., and at the age of fourteen began learning the harness making trade at Greensburg, Pa., in which line of business he has been since engaged. In 1893 he came to Van Buren, O., and opened a harness shop, and since 1901 he has also dealt extensively in hardware, farming implements, drain tiles, etc., and commands a very large patronage throughout this section of the county.

Mr. Geisey was united in marriage with Nancy Lyon, a daughter of Lewis S. Lyon, and they have been the parents of four children —Lydia, Lewis, Marjory and John. In politics Mr. Geisey is a Democrat. He is affiliated fraternally with the Sons of Veterans at New Florence, Pa., also with the Maccabees and the Modern Woodmen of America at Van Buren.

CHARLES RIECK, interior decorator and contract painter, who is located at No. 522 South Main Street, Findlay, O., also deals in painters' supplies, wall paper, picture frames, etc., and is one of the foremost

business men of the city. He was born November 7, 1864, in Germany, and is a son of Carl and Elesie Rieck, the latter of whom died in Germany, her native country. The father died in America, where he located some years after our subject came to this country.

Charles Rieck was reared and educated in his native country, where he learned painting and decorating. He came to America in 1881 and located at Chicago, Ill., where he worked at his trade until 1889, then came to Findlay, O., where he established his present business. Mr. Rieck began on a small scale, but now employs from three to twelve men all the year, and carries on an extensive and profitable business, and is one of the substantial men of Findlay. He is a member of the board of directors of the Majestic Theatre of Findlay. He belongs to the fraternal orders of I. O. O. F. and the B. P. O. E.

Mr. Rieck was united in marriage with Flora M. Watt, a daughter of John Watt, of Findlay, and to them have been born three children: Edna, Anna, and Carl.

HENRY L. LYON, township trustee of Portage Township, Hancock County, O., and also a member of the school board, is one of the representative farmers of this section, operating from 100 to 125 acres of land in this township. He was born on a farm in Allen Township, Hancock County, November 28, 1869, and is a son of E. S. Lyon, an old resident of Allen Township.

Henry L. Lyon was reared in his native township and was afforded excellent school advantages and completed his High School course at Van Buren. Farming and stock raising have been the industries to which he has devoted himself. He owns the tract of twenty-three acres on which he lives, which lies in Section 3, near the Ten Mile church, and he also has a farm of 115 acres in Oklahoma.

Mr. Lyon was married to Miss Isabel Perry, a daughter of Frederick Perry. She was born in Pennsylvania and came to Hancock County when thirteen years of age. Mr. and Mrs. Lyon have two children: Raymond and Grace. Mr. Lyon and family attend the Ten Mile church and he is assistant superintendent of the Union Sunday school connected with it. In politics he is a Democrat and in the fall of 1909 he was elected township trustee and is serving in his third term on the school board, on account of his deep interest in educational matters, willingly accepting the duties and responsibilities of this position. He is identified with the order of Maccabees at North Baltimore, O.

DEWITT C. WESTFALL, D. O., with offices in the Niles Building, Findlay, O., has been established in practice in this city since 1901, coming directly from the American School of Osteopathy following his graduation. Dr. Westfall was born at Grayville, Ill., March 19, 1868, and is a son of Milton and Elizabeth Westfall.

While he was young, Dr. Westfall lived on his father's farm, but the latter moved to Grayville and there conducted a shoe store, later moving to Browns, Ill., where he operated the Westfall Hotel fifteen years and the son assisted in the capacity of clerk. Later, the latter taught school and then, with his two brothers, operated

the Southern Illinois cannery, at Browns, Edwards County, Ill., for two years. After selling the cannery, he became a student in Westfield College, at Westfield, Clark County, Ill., after which he entered the ministry of the United Brethren in Christ church, and served as pastor for two years at Seaton, Ill., and the three following years at Alexis, Ill. Loss of health led him to first become interested in osteopathy and later to his attending college at the fountain head, Kirksville, Mo., his subsequent graduation and his successful practice of this method of healing.

Dr. Westfall married Miss Anna E. Johnson and they have two children: Eugene R. and Kenneth Milton. He is identified with the Odd Fellows, the Knights of Osteopathy, the Knights of Pythias and the Court of Honor and retains membership in his college fraternities, Colomentian and the Iota Tau Sigma. Dr. and Mrs. Westfall are valued members of Findlay's pleasant social circles.

MRS. MARY WOLF, widow of the late Levi Wolf and a daughter of William Davis, who was an early settler here, is well known all over Hancock County not only for her womanly qualities but also for her remarkable business capacity. She has resided on her present home farm of fifty-nine acres, which is situated in Section 10, Marion Township, since her marriage. She owns a second farm, situated in Sections 1 and 2, Marion Township, which contains 120 acres.

Mary Davis was reared among almost pioneer surroundings and she had fewer educational opportunities than had those who grew up where settlements were nearer together. She recalls the days when she attended church at Findlay, riding to and from on horseback, the road leading entirely through the woods. She was married August 14, 1851, to Levi Wolf, who was born in Fairfield County, O., August 20, 1825. His parents were David and Lydia (Swartz) Wolf, who came to Hancock County and settled near the Davis homestead. Levi was then a young man and had learned the blacksmith trade and subsequently ran a shop on the farm on which Mrs. Wolf now lives. He purchased a part of this land but before he had time or opportunity to get it cleared, he entered the army during the Civil War. He enlisted in February, 1861, in the 57th O. Vol. Inf., and was taken prisoner at the battle of Shiloh and was incarcerated in Macon, Ga., where he was confined until April 7, 1862. When released he was in such a condition that on his way home he was obliged to go to a hospital and his death followed on July 3, at Cincinnati, from his injuries.

Mrs. Wolf found herself with four children to rear and educate, these being: Margaret Jane, who resides with her mother; Lydia, who is the wife of Dr. J. C. Tritch, of Findlay, and they have two children, Gail and Martha; Fannie, who died at the age of three years; and John, who died when aged thirty-one years. Mrs. Wolf's training in all things practical now stood her in fine stead, enabling her to complete payments on her home farm, acquire more land and make excellent improvements of all kinds. In the course of years she has remodeled the farm house three times and has erected four substantial barns. On her

second farm handsome buildings have been erected and eighty acres have been cleared and put under cultivation. On that farm the first oil in Marion Township was discovered, the successful operators being her son, John Wolf, David Davis, her brother, and a Mr. Righter. The drilling was being done for gas but oil was struck, the first well being a 250-barrel well. She has realized $40,000 from oil and there is still some production going on. Mrs. Wolf has always managed her business herself even when her interests have been numerous. She keeps about seventy-five sheep and enough cows to provide for the selling of a large amount of cream. She has always been a hard worker and her mind has been as strong as her body. Her husband was a leading man in public affairs in his township and was elected township treasurer on the Republican ticket.

JOHN POE, deceased, formerly a member of the law firm of Poe & Poe, at Findlay, O., was one of the Nestors of the bar in Hancock County, his practice covering a period of thirty-one years. He was born on a farm in Liberty Township, Hancock County, O., November 22, 1849, and died at Findlay, September 22, 1909.

Robert Poe, father of the late John Poe, accompanied his father, Jacob Poe, from Chillicothe, O., to Hancock County, in childhood, and one of his brothers was the first white child born in the county.

John Poe was reared on his father's farm and first attended the country schools, and was sent from there to Allegheny College, at Meadville, Pa., where he graduated with class honors. For some time afterward he engaged in teaching school and for one year following his graduation from college he was principal of the Findlay High school and for one year more was superintendent of the schools of Carey, O. He then entered upon the study of law with Attorney Aaron Blackford, and was admitted to the Ohio bar in 1878 and immediately located at Findlay. For many years he commanded a large practice and remained alone until his son, Merle N. Poe, had completed his literary and law education, when he was admitted to partnership. The firm of Poe & Poe continued the legal success which had attended the senior member's practice and a large amount of important litigation in the courts of the county was entrusted to them. John Poe was honored and trusted by hundreds of clients and he was known to his associates and to his fellow citizens in general as an able lawyer, a scholar and a gentleman.

John Poe was married to Miss Sarah C. Trout, who was born on a farm in Allen Township, Hancock County, and is a daughter of George Trout. Three children were born to them: Merle N., Caroline, wife of W. B. Newton; and Janet.

Merle N. Poe was born at Findlay, O., March 30, 1875. He attended the schools in his native city and was graduated from the Findlay High School in 1893, and then entered Princeton University, where he was graduated in 1898. Later he read law under his father's supervision and completed his studies in the New York Law School, and subsequently became a member of the law firm of Poe & Poe. He is affiliated with the Elks, the Odd Fellows and the Modern Woodmen and for some time has taken a

LORENZO FIRMIN, M. D.

large amount of interest in military matters and is captain of Co. A, 2nd Ohio National Guard.

LORENZO FIRMIN, M. D., deceased, for almost forty years was a citizen of Findlay and his name is identified with much that has brought this city into deserved prominence and which contributed to its advance in substantial and material lines, as well as on the higher levels of professional and social effort. Dr. Firmin was born March 31, 1808, at Wilbraham, Mass., and was a son of John and Lovina (Green) Firmin, his parents coming of old established New England families.

Dr. Firman remained under his father's roof until he was twenty-two years of age, during that time obtaining educational training in the village schools and under his father a knowledge of shoemaking. In 1834 he came to Ohio, and at Richland, in Summit County, embarked in a tanning business with Dr. Rawson. In 1838 he was married to Miss Clara Harriet Rawson, a daughter of his partner, and he then came to Findlay and established himself in the shoemaking business. Shortly afterward, however, he began the study of medicine, under the supervision of Dr. Bass Rawson, completing the course as then required and entering into practice. With the exception of one year, during which he followed his profession at Benton Ridge, Dr. Firmin's whole period of professional activity was spent at Findlay, where he continued in active practice until his retirement, in 1877. During three years of this time he was associated with Dr. F. W. Firmin. In the meanwhile he had become interested in business enterprises to which he later gave closer attention with corresponding advantage. Many of them grew to important proportions, and through them he derived the fortune with which he was so ready and willing, at all times, to help the unfortunate or to aid public-spirited, philanthropic and benevolent movements. As one of the organizers of the First Congregational Church at Findlay, he was ever generous in contributing to its support, and he was equally liberal in his contributions to the Y. M. C. A. of this city; on many occasions also Oberlin College benefited through his generosity. Dr. Firmin was widely known and was held in high esteem, for he possessed many endearing personal qualities. In early manhood he was a Democrat but later he identified himself with the Republican party, though from disinterested motives, as he invariably declined political honors. He attained a venerable old age, retaining his faculties to a remarkable degree, passing quietly out of life on October 12, 1901.

Dr. Firmin was twice married. His first wife died in 1891. In 1894 he was united to Miss Mary B. Humphrey, who was born at Findlay, Ohio, and is a daughter of Jarvis and Julia (Barber) Humphrey. Mrs. Firmin was the youngest of her parents' family of six children and the only one born in Ohio. She was educated at Findlay and for some years prior to her marriage was a successful teacher. She resides in her beautiful home at No. 914 North Main Street, Findlay.

JARVIS HUMPHREY, deceased, was one of Hancock County's well known residents and here he spent the greater part of a long and exemplary life. He was of English ancestry but of New England parentage. His father, Dudley Humphrey was born at Simsbury, Conn., and at the same place, Jarvis Humphrey was born in 1809. The latter was

among the agriculturists who sought homes on the rich lands of Hancock County, in 1851, bringing his wife and five children from Connecticut. He was a man of some substance and the family resided at Findlay during the months in which he was selecting a farm for purchase, to which they subsequently moved. At Simsbury, Conn., he had married Julia Barber, who survived her seventy-seventh birthday. The children of this marriage were the following: Chauncey D.; Marion, Mrs. George E. Cook; Ellen A., Mrs. B. O. Robinson; Justine, Mrs. John H. King; Jarvis S.; and Mary B., who is the widow of the late Dr. Lorenzo Firmin of Findlay.

Jarvis Humphrey continued his agricultural pursuits until far beyond middle life and then retired to a comfortable home at Findlay where his death occurred April 21, 1897, when he had rounded out eighty-four years. In his religious connection he was an earnest member of the Congregational church. Although never an office-holder, he was actively interested in public matters and cast his vote with the Republican party.

REV. JOHN J. NONNAMAKER, one of Mt. Cory's highly esteemed retired citizens, is the owner of valuable real estate here and owns also a valuable farm of 180 acres, which is situated in Section 33, Union Township, and Sections 3 and 4 Orange Township, Hancock County, O. He was born on a farm in Eagle Township, two miles east of Canonsburg, O., January 7, 1842, and is a son of Ami Lucinda (Houdeshell) Nonnamaker.

Ami Nonnamaker was born in Germany and was six years old when he accompanied his parents to America, in 1815. His parents settled in what is now Fairfield County, O., and there they died. Ami Nonnamaker later moved to near Canonsburg, where he entered 160 acres of Government land and there John J. grew to manhood and his father engaged in farming until advanced in years when he moved to Mt. Cory, where he died in October, 1884. For years he was a prominent man in Eagle Township, a leader in Democratic politics, and several times served as township trustee. He married Lucinda Houdeshell, who was born in Pennsylvania and was brought to Fairfield County by her parents, in childhood. She died at Canonsburg, July 5, 1855.

John J. Nonnamaker was reared and educated in Eagle Township. He was nineteen years of age when he enlisted, on November 1, 1861, for service in the Civil War, becoming a member of Co. G, 57th O. Vol. Inf., under command of Captain Wilson. He remained in the army until he was honorably discharged on August 14, 1865, at Columbus, O., having been mustered out at Little Rock, Ark. Although he was ever at the post of duty and participated in such notable battles as Pittsburg Landing and Champion Hill and marched many times through the enemy's country, he was never either wounded or captured. He returned then to peaceful pursuits, settling in Orange Township, Hancock County, after his marriage in 1866. A few years later he became a minister in the Evangelical church. His first charge was at Mt. Cory, in Hancock County and after that he was stationed as follows: two years in Logan County; two years in Putnam County; three years at Wilmot, Stark County; seven years in Coshocton County; Melmore, Seneca County; then to

Pickaway County and from there to Bowling Green. At present he accepts calls in this locality.

Mr. Nonnamaker was married in 1866, to Miss E. M. Spangler, who was born and reared in Hancock County. For some years prior to her marriage she taught school in Union Township. Seven children were born to this marriage: Dora, Marion E., Lois, Mary, Clara, Minnie and William A. Marion E. married Anna Gulick, of Seneca County, and they have one daughter, Anna. He is a professor of a college in Illinois. Lois died at Mt. Cory, May 1, 1906, aged thirty-four years. She was a highly educated lady and for twelve years taught school in Wayne, Ashland, and Hancock Counties. Mary married William O. Smith of Richland County, O., after teaching three terms of school in Ashland County. Mr. and Mrs. Smith have four children: Fay, Vinton, Noel and Marion. Clara died at the age of three years, and Minnie died at the age of ten months. William A. is a teacher and for five years has been identified with a school at Duluth, Minn. He married Augusta Goetz, of St. Louis County, Minn.

ROSS J. WETHERALD, attorney at law, with offices at No. 239 South Main Street, Findlay, O., in the Headquarters Block, is an able member of the Hancock County bar and has been established here since 1895 and has built up a large and substantial practice. He was born at Bellaire, Belmont County, O., March 18, 1873, and is a son of Sylvester R. and Mary R. (Jennings) Wetherald.

The late Sylvester R. Wetherald was a prominent manufacturer at Findlay. In 1888 he brought his family to Findlay and the Wetherald firm, of which he was a member, built the works of the Wire Nail Company here and he was engaged in business until the time of his death, in 1892. His widow survives.

Ross J. Wetherald entered the High School when the family came to Findlay, where he was graduated in 1891, after which he attended Findlay College for one year and then began the study of law first under the direction of Hon. A. E. Kerns, formerly probate judge, and later at the Ohio State University, where he was graduated in 1895. Mr. Wetherald retains membership in his college fraternities, the Phi Delta Phi and the Phi Gamma Delta, and is past chancelor of the order of Knights of Pythias and a member of the order of the Knights of Khorrassan. He belongs to the First Presbyterian church at Findlay.

S. G. ROBINSON, whose farm of 160 acres is situated in Sections 3 and 4, Blanchard Township, Hancock County, O., was born in Erie County, N. Y., May 29, 1831, and is a son of Benjamin E. and Sarah (Gail) Robinson.

Benjamin E. Robinson carried on the tanning business in Erie County, N. Y., before he came with his family to Ohio, in 1838, and settled in Franklin County, on the National Turnpike road, eleven miles east of Columbus. Of the seven children born to Benjamin E. and Sarah Robinson, five survive. Mr. Robinson also has two half-brothers living and one half-sister.

S. G. Robinson was seven years old when his parents moved to Ohio and he attended the district schools in Franklin County. He was twenty years of age when he came to Blan-

chard Township, Hancock County, and he has seen many wonderful changes. He carried the chain in the surveys made for many of the roads through this section and at times has followed an Indian trail which was not more than ten inches wide and in some parts not more than four or five inches, as far as the Maumee River. Mr. Robinson cleared up the greater part of his farm by himself and has devoted the land to general agriculture. He has been one of the leading men of his section and for twenty-four years has been a justice of the peace. Being of a peaceful disposition himself, he has been able to settle many cases out of court and thus has saved much trouble and expense to those who found it necessary to have their differences adjusted by some one with the right sense of justice. In politics, Mr. Robinson is a Republican.

Mr. Robinson was married in February, 1859, to Miss Mary Ann Haddox, a daughter of Enoch Haddox, of Blanchard Township, and five children were born to them: Edward, Stella, Ida, Samuel and Alexander. After the death of his first wife he married Emma (McKain) Day, a daughter of James McKain, of Pittsburg, and later of Toledo, O. Mr. Robinson has long been one of the representative men of Blanchard Township.

W. C. BUNN, whose valuable farm of 160 acres is situated in Section 1, Union Township, Hancock County, O., was born in Blanchard Township, Hancock County, March 1, 1863, and is a son of John and Catherine Bunn.

John Bunn was born in Muskingum County, O., and was ten years old when he accompanied his parents, Reed Bunn and wife, to Putnam County, where the father entered eighty acres of Government land. John Bunn still survives and has worked at the carpenter trade ever since early manhood and is also a farmer. His wife was born in Stark County and accompanied her parents to Hancock County where she was reared and married. Her death occurred March 1, 1902, at the age of sixty-four years.

W. C. Bunn was reared in Hancock County and obtained a common school education. In 1884 he married Miss Ellen Perkins, of Putnam County, O., a daughter of one of the prominent old pioneers. In that county, Mr. and Mrs. Bunn started housekeeping. In 1909 they came to the present farm which is situated one and one-half miles north of Rawson, on the Findlay road. Mr. Bunn carries on general farming and stock raising, keeping hogs, sheep, horses and cattle.

Mr. Bunn and wife have five children: David, Ethel, Carl, Catherine and Erwin. He is not very much interested in politics but keeps well posted on current events and in every respect is a good citizen. For a number of years he has been identified with the Masonic fraternity at Findlay.

GEORGE F. TROUT, of the firm of Trout Brothers, proprietors of a furniture store at No. 311 South Main Street, Findlay, O., and president of the Ohio Paint and Stain Company, also of Findlay, has been a resident of this city since 1898. He was born at Van Buren, Hancock County, O., January 19, 1873, and is a son of Judson B. Trout, who resides on his farm near North Baltimore, O.

In 1884, when George F. Trout was about eleven years old, the family moved to North Baltimore, in Wood County, and there he was educated, graduating from the North Balti-

more High School in 1893. He married Miss Carrie Crites, a daughter of Samuel Crites, and they have one daughter, Irene. Mr. Trout is a member of a number of fraternal organizations including the Knights of Pythias, the Odd Fellows and the Modern Woodmen of America.

The firm of Trout Brothers is composed of George F. and Len L. Trout and S. J. Chesbro and in addition to carrying on their large store at Findlay, they operate a furniture store at North Baltimore which is under the immediate supervision of Len L. Trout. The works of the Ohio Paint and Stain Company are situated on the corner of Taylor and Walnut Streets, Findlay. This company was organized January 1, 1910, from the old Ohio Paint and Varnish Company, of which Mr. Trout was president as he is of the present company. Other officers are: Hiram Van Campen, secretary, and John H. Williamson, manager of the works. When the Trout Brothers came first to Findlay they established their store in the Marvin Theater Block, on North Main Street, moving from there to their present location in February, 1909. During his first two years of residence at Findlay, Mr. Trout ran an oil lease but since then has given his main attention to merchandising. He is numbered with the city's progressive, wide awake and enterprising citizens.

D. L. NORRIS, one of the substantial and representative citizens of Marion Township, Hancock County, O., who is serving in his fourth term as township treasurer, owns 220 acres of fine farm land in this township, separated into three tracts, the home farm in Section 3, containing eighty acres. He was born in Fairfield County, O., May 13, 1848, and is a son of Alexander M. and Maria (Stone) Norris.

Alexander M. Norris was born in Maryland, in 1808, and came to Ohio in 1835. His father was Alexander Norris, who was of English ancestry. Alexander M. Norris was one of a family of fourteen children and he and his brother William were the only ones to come to what was then the West, and William died in Fairfield County, but Alexander M. came to Hancock County when his son, David Lewis, was but a child. For some years he followed the shoemaking trade and then bought a small place. He died in 1898, at the age of ninety years. He was twice married, by his first wife having four children: William H., Mary F., Elizabeth and Sarah J. Mary F. is the only survivor and is the wife of Samuel Mosier. His second marriage was to Maria Stone, who was born in Virginia, and three children were born to that union: George W., David Lewis and Anna, who is the wife of Henry Borough. The mother of these children died in 1893, at the age of eighty-two years.

David Lewis Norris was four years old when his parents moved from Fairfield to Hancock County and settled on the farm on which he lives. His father bought his first twenty acres from R. Foltz and subsequently added until he became possessed of a large estate. David Lewis grew to manhood here and his education was secured in the district schools. When he reached man's estate he took charge of the farm and later purchased it and has carried on farming and stock raising here. His sisters lived with him until their death and since then Mr. and Mrs. M. E. Hartman have resided here, Mr. Hartman at present being the practical farmer. The farm house was built by the father of Mr. Norris and at times the present

owner has repaired it and has erected the other buildings now on his land, including those on his other farms.

In politics, Mr. Norris is a stanch Republican and he has served frequently in township offices, as noted above, being township treasurer and formerly was township clerk, and in 1889 was his party's candidate for county recorder. He is a member of Findlay Lodge No. 73, Odd Fellows, and of the Golden Rule Encampment, and is a charter member of the local Grange.

SOLOMON SHAFER, owner of 330 acres of fine farming land in Delaware Township, Section 11, and seventy acres in Mt. Blanchard Sections 1 and 2, upon which he lives, was born in Knox County, O., March 23, 1836, a son of Michael and Nancy Shafer. The father came to Hancock County in 1835, with two of his eldest sons, and two of his eldest daughters, and cleared a small piece of land, on which he built a log cabin. In the following spring he was joined by his wife, who made the journey on horseback, carrying her little six-weeks old son, the subject of this sketch. Their farm was located in Section 12, half a mile south of Mt. Blanchard. Michael Shafer added to his little property from time to time until he finally became one of the largest land owners in Hancock County, a result which speaks volumes for his industry and perseverance. He died on his farm in Section 1, on August 16, 1862, being survived for eight years by his wife. She was a native of Ireland, coming to this country with her parents, who settled in Knox County, where they engaged in farming. She and her husband were the parents of twelve children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the ninth in order of birth.

Solomon Shafer was reared in Delaware Township, attending the country schools in boyhood and also the city schools at Mt. Blanchard. During his leisure hours he was gradually initiated into farm work, which subsequently became his life occupation. In 1859 he bought out the heirs of his father's estate, and in the following year he married Mary Elizabeth Hoge, who came to Hancock County from Belmont County, O., with her parents, when thirteen years of age, they settling on a farm in Amanda Township, this being about the year 1851. Subsequently they removed to the State of Iowa, where Mr. Hoge bought a farm, upon which he later died—in 1885. His wife passed away three years afterwards.

Soon after his marriage our subject began housekeeping upon his 70-acre farm in Sections 1 and 2, which property he has since cut up into city lots. Upon his other property he carries on general agriculture and has been quite successful in this occupation, partaking of the prosperity which farmers in general are now enjoying throughout the country. He and his wife have had one child, Anna Lorena, who is now the wife of Lewis Renfrew Kious, of Madison County, and the mother of five children—Clifford Shafer, Mary Louise, Lewis R., Lorena and Elizabeth. Mr. and Mrs. Shafer attend the Methodist Protestant church. From 1865 to 1869 Mr. Shafer served as county auditor, being elected on the Democratic ticket, and living during those four years in Findlay. The rest of his life has been spent in Mt. Blanchard.

FRANK C. SHANK, county auditor of Hancock County, O., is well and favorably known all over this county, belonging to one of its prominent old families and for a number of

years being active in political circles. He was born in Union Township, Hancock County, O., August 20, 1873, and is a son of Albert and Mary E. (Watson) Shank.

Albert Shank was born in Allen County, O., and came from there to Hancock County where he followed an agricultural life until his decease in 1892. He married Mary E. Watson, a native of Mahoning County, O., who survives.

Frank C. Shank was reared on his father's farm and after attending the country schools for some years, began to teach school, first in Union Township, for thirty-two months, and later at the village of Rawson for thirty-one months. He had always been a zealous Republican and after he left the school-room he was elected deputy county auditor and served in that office for seven consecutive years. He was elected in the November election of 1908 to the office of auditor, assuming the duties of this office on the third Monday in October, 1909, and was one of the two Republican county officials, out of sixteen candidates, who were elected. Mr. Shank's long experience as deputy particularly qualified him for this office, in which he is efficient and popular.

Mr. Shank married Miss Gertrude Crist, who was born and reared in Eagle Township, Hancock County, and they have two children: Mary and Josephine. Mr. Shank is a member of a number of fraternal organizations, including: the Knights of Pythias, the Odd Fellows, the Maccabees, the Elks, and the Sons of Veterans.

JACOB ANTHONY KIMMELL, M. D., was born on a farm near the village of Oneida, Carroll County, Ohio, on the 17th day of September, 1844. He was a son of David and Christena Oaks Kimmell, the former of Dutch and the latter of English descent, and was the eighth of a family of ten children, of whom three are still living.

In October, 1851, the family moved to Hancock County, and settled on a farm in Marion Township about three miles from Findlay. Here he attended the country common schools and at the age of sixteen obtained a county certificate and taught school in the winter time and attended the Findlay select school in the autumn season for two years, when in February, 1863, he enlisted for three years in Co. A, 21st Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and served to the close of the war, receiving his discharge from the service May 30th, 1865. He was present and took part in numerous skirmishes and battles of the Civil War, among the most prominent of which was Chickamauga, Tunnel Hill, Rocky Face, Resaca, Kenesaw Mountain, New Hope church, Chattahoocha and Atlanta, serving with General W. T. Sherman in the "One hundred and twenty days' fight" from Chattanooga to Atlanta. Upon the arrival of Sherman's army at Atlanta, he was taken with rheumatism, and sent back in stages to Chattanooga, Nashville, and Jeffersonville, Ind. Fully recovering at the latter place, he received a detail as prescription clerk in the Joe Holt General Hospital, of twelve hundred beds, where he remained until the close of the war.

Upon his return home, he taught one year in the Findlay schools, read medicine and attended the Medical Department of the Western Reserve University at Cleveland, Ohio, graduating in the class of 1869. In 1875 he took the ad eundem degree at Bellevue Hospital Medical College, New York, and a Post Graduate course in the same city in 1898. He commenced the practice of medicine at Can-

nonsburg, Hancock County, O., and was postmaster of that village under Grant's administration, but has practiced his profession in Findlay continuously since 1872.

In politics, Dr. Kimmell has always been a staunch Republican, and has served as a member of the city council and municipal gas trustee; he was appointed on the board of pension examiners by President Harrison. In 1895 he was elected to the Ohio Legislature from Hancock County by a majority of 631, this being the largest majority given to a representative from this county in its history, and at this time secured the passage of the medical law of Ohio for the examination and registration of physicians and surgeons within the State. He has held the position of surgeon on the Cleveland, Cincinnati, Chicago & St. Louis Railroad for twenty-two years, and was president of the railroad surgeons of that system in 1909.

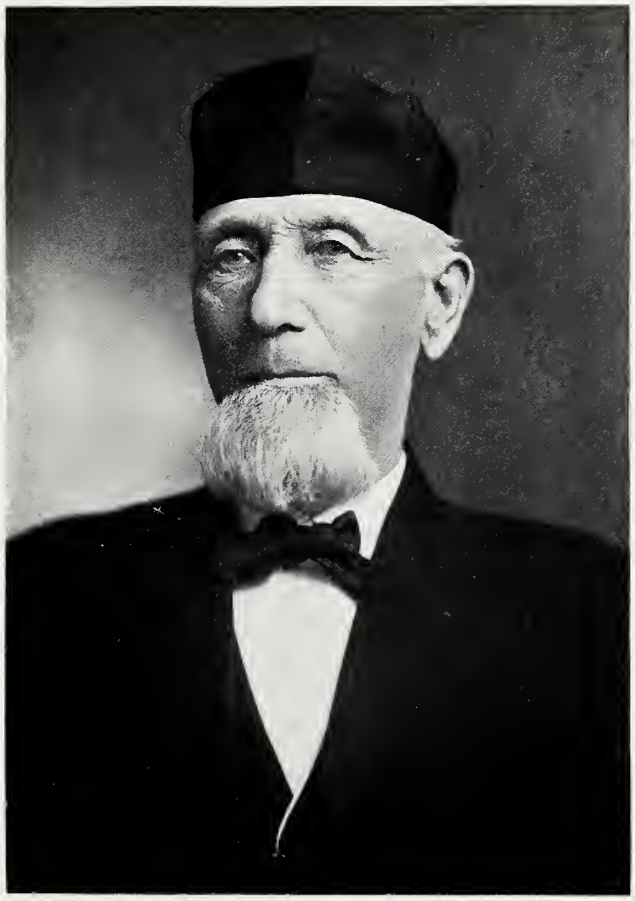
Dr. Kimmell is a member, and has been president of, the Hancock County and Northwestern Ohio Medical Associations; he is also a member of the Ohio State, National and International Medical Associations, as well as examiner for a number of the large life insurance companies.

The Doctor has been an extensive traveler, having been in every state and territory in the United States, the British Maritime Provinces, Canada, Alaska, Mexico, Central America, Cuba, and the Isle of Pines in the Western Hemisphere, and has visited almost every country in Europe as well as the western part of Asia and the northern part of Africa. Owing to this extensive intermingling with people of different political and religious views, he has become quite liberal in his views, and charitable to all, and while he is not a member of any church, he holds strongly to the Unitarian creed.

Having had the misfortune to lose two wives, he was married the third time August 30th, 1909, to the estimable Mrs. Effie Afton Gibson, of Detroit, Mich. He has one son, Alfred Graber Kimmell, by his second wife, Rosa Evelyn Kimmell.

HON. D. P. HAGERTY, once a member of the General Assembly from Hancock County, O., and a prominent retired farmer of Liberty Township, resides on his farm of 142 acres, which is located in Section 18. He was born April 3, 1844, in Fayette County, Pa., on the Pittsburg and Uniontown Road and is a son of Samuel and Maria (Gween) Hagerty, both natives of Fayette County, Pa. Samuel Hagerty, who was a mason by trade, spent his entire life in Fayette County, Pa. He was the father of five children, and he and his wife and two sons all died within two years, and were buried at Liberty, Fayette County, Pa. Our subject's two sisters reside in Fayette County. Mr. Hagerty was politically a Democrat.

Hon. D. P. Hagerty was reared and spent the first thirty years of his life in Fayette County, Pa., and there obtained his education in the public schools. He was engaged in farming there for some years after his marriage and also in Westmoreland County. In 1874 he came to Hancock County, Ohio, and settled on his present farm of 142 acres in Liberty Township, where he followed general farming and stock raising until 1905. He has since continued his residence here, overseeing his farming interests, and during the busy season he lends a helping hand with the work. In 1908 he was elected a member of the General Assembly, and has since received the nom-



HON. D. P. HAGERTY

ination for a second term. He was a member of the Farmers' Institute of Benton Ridge of which he served five years as president, and was also a member of the McComb Farmers' Institute.

Mr. Hagerty was married in Fayette County, Pa., in 1865, to Sarah Browneller, a daughter of Samuel Browneller, who was a native of eastern Pennsylvania. Of their union were born the following children: Lizzie D., who is the wife of A. T. Richard, of Findlay, Ohio; A. L., who married Clifford Hauver, of Tippecanoe City, Miami County, Ohio; Anna B., who is residing at home; Samuel J., who married Permilla M. Eshelman; and Emily, living at home.

GEORGE F. SHARNINGHOUSE, who resides on his excellent farm of eighty-three acres, eighty of which lie in Section 21 and three acres in Section 28, Portage Township, Hancock County, O., owns also a life lease in thirty-eight and one-half acres, situated in Section 33, the same township. He was born in Pleasant Township, Hancock County, October 24, 1875, and is a son of William and Dora (Kuhlman) Sharninghouse.

William Sharninghouse was born in Hanover, Germany, December 12, 1849, and is a son of Henry and Mary Sharninghouse. His people were in humble circumstances and when he was seven years old he had to go to work to help support the family. After working for a time at herding cows, he bound himself out for a period of five years, under these conditions: for the first year he should receive nine dollars; for the second year, twelve dollars; fifteen dollars for his third year of service; forty dollars for the fourth year and fifty dollars for the fifth year. In those days that looked like a very large amount of money for a poor boy to earn. He kept faithfully to his contract and at the expiration of it had $126 comig to him. In the meanwhile he had heard much of the land of prosperity and opportunity across the Atlantic Ocean and when he received the money his toil had earned, he paid out a goodly portion of it for a ticket on a sailing vessel for America. He landed in the United States in 1869. He immediately sought employment but before he found any work that he could do, his money had dwindled to six dollars. After reaching Hancock County, O., he secured work in Allen Township as a farm hand and in four and one-half years had saved the sum of $500. He kept on working, sometimes renting land for a season or two and by 1881 was able to purchase seventy acres for himself. In 1896 he added enough more to make his farm 150 acres, located in Portage Township, where he has long been a leading farmer and respected citizen. In 1872 he married Dora Kuhlman, who died in 1904. They had four children: Amelia Jane, George F., Henry W., and Ora. Mr. Sharninghouse and sons all belong to the German Lutheran church.

George F. Sharninghouse was a babe when his parents moved into Portage Township and here he grew to manhood and attended the country schools in his youth. His business has always been farming and stock raising and he has met with much success in his efforts. He bought his farm in the winter of 1909-1910 and moved on it in the following spring.

Mr. Sharninghouse married Miss Jennie Pearl Mowery, a daughter of George Mowery, a prominent farmer of Pleasant Township, where she was born and reared. Four children have been born to this marriage: Ralph, Joice, Zella May and Dorothy. Mr. Sharning-

house has taken an active interest in township affairs and has served as a member of the school board of Portage Township since March of the current year.

JOHN H. JELLEY, an enterprising farmer and highly respected citizen of Allen Township, Hancock County, O., is the owner of 127 acres of highly cultivated farm land, fifty-seven acres lying in Cass Township, and the remaing seventy acres, adjoining being in Section 20, Allen Township. He was born December 7, 1848, on a farm in Cass Township, Hancock County, O., and is a son of John H. and Hannah (Johnston) Jelley.

John H. Jelley, was born in Jefferson County, O., on a farm, through which the line dividing Jefferson and Harrison Counties ran, and was there reared to maturity. In 1840, on the eve of Hallowe'en, he first came to Hancock County, and after remaining but a short time, went to Coshocton County, O., where he had two brothers living. He subsequently returned to Hancock County and purchased a farm in Section 32, Cass Township, and there spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring May 13, 1880. He was first united in marriage with Hannah Johnston, who died April 1852, and his second union was with Ann Maria Spangler, who died December 27, 1866. His third marriage was with Mrs. Susan (Johnson) Cratty, a widow of Hiram Cratty, who died while in service in the Civil War.

John H. Jelley, subject of this sketch, was reared in Cass Township, his father's farm being the scene of his boyhood activities, and with the exception of ten years spent at carpentering, has always followed general farming. For two years after his marriage he rented a farm in Allen Township, but in November, 1882, located on his present farm, which he had purchased some time before, and has here carried on general farming. Mr. Jelley is one of the substantial and enterprising citizens of the township, and has served six years as justice of the peace of Allen Township.

Mr. Jelley was married to Rozena Mellott, who is a daughter of Elijah and Jane (Kline) Mellott, and is a granddaughter of Obadiah and Katherine (Sipes) Mellott, natives of Bedford County, Pa. Obadiah Mellott was of English descent and his wife of German ancestry. He died in 1862, and his wife died in 1859. Elijah Mellott was born in 1820 in Bedford County, Pa., and was married there in 1842. In 1851 he located in Ashland County, O., and four years later came to Hancock County and purchased eighty acres of land in Allen Township, which he later increased to 117 acres. Mrs. Elijah Mellott died in Allen Township in 1891, and is still survived by her husband, who resides with his son, John H. Mellott, of Allen Township.

Mr. and Mrs. Jelley became the parents of the following children: Jenny Pearl, who teaches music in Findlay, O.; Eiljah Oral, who teaches the school of District No. 5 of Allen Township; Cleveland Hazlett, who is employed as a machinist at Detroit, Mich.; Elva J., who is employed as an oil pumper, married Belva Shafer, and they have one child, Gale Lillian; Leland Laverne, who died aged seven months and twenty-eight days; Clarence Ithel; James Jule; Harland Henry; and Bernard Lowell.

C. E. BECK, who enjoys the distinction of being the youngest business man in the growing little city of Mt. Blanchard, O., is also numbered with the most prosperous. He was born at Mt. Blanchard in December, 1873, and is a son of Peter and Katherine (Morehart) Beck.

Peter Beck is one of Mt. Blanchard's leading citizens. He was born in Amanda Township, Hancock County, O., and followed farming until he moved to Mt. Blanchard, where he was appointed postmaster by the late ex-President Cleveland. His wife died when their son, C. E. Beck, was small.

C. E. Beck was educated in his native place and after leaving school he became a clerk in the post office and remained with his father until the close of his term as postmaster. He then opened up a retail grocery and has demonstrated much business ability and commands a large amount of the most desirable city trade.

In November, 1895, Mr. Beck was married to Miss Mamie E. Bell, a daughter of J. T. Bell, of Mt. Blanchard. Mr. and Mrs. Beck have two children: Helen and Katherine. With the other representative business men of the city, Mr. Beck is identified with the Masons and the Odd Fellows and is the treasurer of both organizations at Mt. Blanchard.

DON. B. BIGGS, M. D. The medical profession at Findlay, O., has many able representatives and among these may be mentioned Don. B. Biggs, M. D., who has been established in practice in this city for the past eight years. He was born at Arcadia, Hancock County, O., June 16, 1873, and is a son of Rev. Peter and Anna (Eyer) Biggs.

Rev. Peter Biggs is now living retired at Findlay, after a continuous service of thirty-three years in the Methodist ministry. Few residents of Hancock County are better known or more highly esteemed.

Dr. Biggs attended the public schools of Hancock County and afterward spent three years at Louisville, Ky., and then entered Starling Medical College, at Columbus, O., where he was graduated in the class of 1902. In August of the same year he came to Findlay where he has built up a substantial practice. He is a member of the Hancock County, the Northwestern, the Ohio State and the National Medical Societies. He is affiliated with the Elks, the Knights of Pythias and the Modern Woodmen of America.

JOHN BRENNER, justice of the peace and leading citizen of Cass Township where he is held in high esteem by his fellow citizens, in association with his son owns 287 acres of fine land, of which, the home farm of eighty acres lies in Section 25, while the remainder is in Section 13, almost adjoining. Mr. Brenner was born October 12, 1846, in Washington Township, Hancock County, O., and is a son of Mathias and Caroline (Mouser) Brenner.

Mathias Brenner and wife were both born in Wittenberg, Germany, and shortly after their marriage they embarked for America. Travel in those days was slow and laborious and we are not surprised to learn that a stage journey of eighteen days had to be undertaken before they reached Havre, where the steamer was ready to carry them to the

unknown land across the ocean. Mathias Brenner was a skilled blacksmith and after they reached Philadelphia, he found work at his trade and two years later came to Ohio. In partnership with his brother-in-law, Jacob Hofer, he bought fourteen acres of land in Mulberry Township, Stark County, and together they carried on a blacksmith business for two years. They then came to Hancock County, where Mr. Hofer bought forty acres in Washington Township, while Mr. Brenner purchased thirty acres from Peter Wyant. He continued to work at his trade but found time to clear twenty acres of his land and build a round log house and shop and later one of hewn logs and still later erected better buildings. Mr. Hofer, however, apparently became discouraged as he sold out and moved to Williams County where he subsequently died. Within five years, Mr. Brenner sold his thirty acres to such good advantage that he was able to buy eighty acres in Section 25, Cass Township. He was a man of enterprise and courage. He walked the whole distance to Coshocton County in order to pay the sum of $462.50, for this land, prudently putting $3 in his pocket for expenses on the way. He accomplished his purpose and when he reached home had one-half of his expense money still in his pocket, proving himself a man of resource and expediency. This trip he made in August, 1847. He continued to live on that land until within six years of his death when he sought the comforts of his son's fireside, his wife having died, and here he passed away in April, 1897, at the age of eighty-six years. There were four children: Rosean, deceased, married first John Scott and second Joseph Foust; Mary, deceased, was the wife of Henry Pfeiffer, also deceased; John, and Caroline, deceased, was the wife of Fred Mouser. The mother of the above family died in August, 1890, aged seventy-five years.

John Brenner was one year old when his parents came to Cass Township and here he grew to manhood, in his boyhood attending the district and later private schools, and the High School at Findlay. For thirteen years he continued to work on the farm during the summers and teach school in the winters and in the fall of 1874 he purchased sixty-four acres of his present farm from Joseph Linhart. Five years later he added forty acres and still later the home farm of eighty acres, and still later, in partnership with his son Henry, bought 103 acres, situated in Section 13, all of which is under the farm management of Henry Brenner.

On October 6, 1872, Mr. Brenner was married to Miss Mary Ann Myers, a daughter of Gotlieb and Mary (Ott) Myers, natives of Germany. Five children were born to this union, namely: Henry; Ella, who is deceased, was the wife of C. P. Taylor, and the mother of two children—Ethel and Genevieve; Ida, who is the wife of C. P. Taylor; John W., who died aged eleven years and five days; and Treva Netta. Mr. Brenner and family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. In politics he is a Democrat and has frequently been elected to township offices, serving as school director and township clerk and also as justice of the peace. He is identified with the order of Ben Hur, of Findlay.

C. R. BURNETTE, Ph. G., the owner and proprietor of the best equipped and most modern drug store, of its size, in Northwestern Ohio, has been established in business for himself at Mt. Blanchard, Hancock County, since 1902, in which year he was appointed postmaster. Mr. Burnette was born at Orangeville, in Trumbull County, O., and is a son of John W. and Alice (Seiple) Burnette, natives and residents of Orangeville.

C. R. Burnette attended the schools in his native place and when twenty-two years old entered the Ohio Normal University of Ada, and was graduated there in pharmacy in 1900. He came then to Mt. Blanchard and for two years managed a drug store which he then bought. He carries only the drugs and preparations which are guaranteed by the Pure Food & Drug law, together with the usual line of merchandise now found in every drug store and in addition has a department fitted up with a full line of wall paper, books and jewelry. He is a man of much enterprise and his business qualities are freely recognized by his fellow citizens who have sought his services on many boards.

In 1901, Mr. Burnette was married to Miss Dawn Pugh, a daughter of Newton and Mary Pugh, who were people of prominence in Delaware Township. Mr. and Mrs. Burnette are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and Mr. Burnette has been a member of its board of trustees for a term of years. He is also trustee and treasurer of the cemetery board. He is identified fraternally with Lodge No. 519 F. & A. M., and Lodge No. 481 Knights of Pythias, both of Mt. Blanchard.

JOHN B. HEIMHOFER, president of the Commercial Bank and Savings Company, of Findlay, O., and a prominent old producer, has been a resident of this city since 1886. He was born in Switzerland, November 13, 1863, and is a son of John M. and Agatha (Miller) Heimhofer.

John M. Heimhofer was born, reared and married in Switzerland. When he came with his family to America he settled in what is now Lackawanna County, Pa., where he secured employment in the coal mines, but later became interested in the oil fields, at which time he moved to Red Rock, in McKean County. Later on in life, when his son, John B., came to Findlay, he and wife accompanied him and in this city Mr. Heimhofer died in 1904, but his widow survives. They had three children: John B., Fred H. and Ida.

John B. Heimhofer was quite young when his parents came to America. He was afforded educational advantages, being sent to a select school at Archibald, Pa., and was seventeen years old when he went with the family to McKean County. There he engaged in teaming in the oil fields for a time and then entered into partnership with his brother and E. V. Wyssbrod and together they purchased a lease in the Bradford oil fields and thus his start was made in the path which has resulted in his becoming so successful an oil producer. In a short time they acquired other leases and kept on until they owned seventy-two wells. In 1886 the firm disposed of its holdings in Pennsylvania and in November of that year opened a hardware store at Findlay, O., under the firm name of Wyssbrod & Company. This business was continued for three years and at the end of that time the firm resumed operations as oil producers.

In 1899, Mr. Heimhofer purchased a fine farm but he has placed tenants on it. In 1901, when the Commercial Bank and Savings Company was organized, he was elected vice-president and became president on January 1, 1910. He has additional interests both at Findlay and other points. He is a director in the Findlay Sucker Rod Company and in the Buckeye Steam Laundry Company, and is also interested in zinc and mineral lands, the former near Joplin, Mo., and the latter in Arkansas.

In 1898, Mr. Heimhofer was married to Miss Rosetta Boyd, who was born and reared in Hancock County and is a daughter of the late Richard W. Boyd, whose death occurred March 10, 1910. Mr. and Mrs. Heimhofer have had two children: John Russell, who died when aged one year; and Bessie M., who was born in 1901. In politics, Mr. Heimhofer gives support to the Republican party, and has served one term in the city council. He is a member of the order of Elks.

JOHN W. SMITH, one of the representative men of Blanchard Township and well known in Hancock County, owns 300 acres of valuable land which is divided into three farms, all of the land being situated in Blanchard and Pleasant Townships. He was born in Washington Township, Hancock County, O., April 10, 1864, and is a son of Henry and Albertina (Tagler) Smith.

The parents of Mr. Smith were born in Germany and there grew up and were married. Two days after the ceremony they left their quiet homes for Hamburg, with the intention of embarking there for America. It took them two weeks to reach the city of Hamburg and six months had passed before they landed on American soil. Henry Smith soon made arrangements to rent eighty acres of land near Fostoria, O., as he could not purchase as his sole capital was represented by a coin of the value of ten cents. He had not been accustomed to hardship, as his father was a man of means in Germany, but, on account of the son marrying against the father's will, he was cut off from his inheritance. The family is familiar with the story of his successful and courageous efforts to acquire independence in the new land and of how much he was helped by the thrift and industry of the wife he had chosen.

John W. Smith attended school in Pleasant Township, north of McComb, and the Blanchard schools. He was married August 8, 1884, to Miss Nancy A. Fundum, a daughter of Henry Fundum, of Blanchard Township. After marriage they resided on the present farm which then belonged to Mr. Fundum, who spent the closing years of his life with Mr. and Mrs. Smith. After the property became his own, Mr. Smith did a large amount of improving, including the thorough draining of the land. He engages in general farming and raises a large amount of stock.

Three children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Smith, namely: Ella, who married D. A. Johnson and they live in Blanchard Township, and have two children—Clarence and Harry; Cora, who resides at home; and Arthur, who is yet at school. Mr. Smith and family belong to the Lutheran church at McComb, O. In politics he is a Democrat and has been a member of the school board for several terms and has also been township trustee, and is known as an honest and capable official. He has other investments and is a stockholder in the Farmers' Mutual Telephone Company of McComb. Perhaps no resident of this section is more

HON. JOHN MELVILLE K. LONG

kindly thought of than Mr. Smith by the poor and needy for his charities are large and the kind heart that prompts them is in sympathy with all who are in trouble.

HON. JOHN MELVILLE K. LONG, manager of Snyder's saw mill, situated in Amanda Township, Hancock County, O., and dealing in concrete and lumber and mill supplies, is one of the best known and most popular citizens of Vanlue, having been elected to the office of mayor of the place on both the Democratic and Republican tickets. He was born at Vanlue, O., June 3, 1858, and is a son of J. W. and a grandson of John Long, who was known far and wide as "Honest" John Long.

J. W. Long, father of John M. K., was born in Wyandot County, O., May 12, 1833, and died October 1, 1909. He married Wealthy Ellen Woodard, who was born July 24, 1838, and still survives. Nine children were born to them as follows: John M. K.; Minnie, who is now Mrs. Dr. Gemmell; Almeda Josephine, who is now Mrs. R. Leese, of Dunkirk; Charles Sherman, who lives at Carey, O.; Emma, who is now Mrs. Cesna of Forest; Nettie, who is now Mrs. Snook, of Delaware Township; Kenneth, who resides at Wharton, O.; Daisy, who is Mrs. McClelland, of Delaware Township; and Fred, who resides at Arlington, O.

John Melville K. Long was educated in different schools in Wyandot County and the Mt. Blanchard High School in Hancock County and later completed a course in civil engineering. He started into the mill business shortly after leaving school and became so much interested that he has continued in the same line and has greatly prospered.

Mr. Long was married to Miss Jessie F. Hammond, who was born and reared in Hancock County, and they have had three children, namely: Rex R., who was in the shoe business at Toledo, and died at the age of twenty-four years; Alice Lenola, who married John Gamel, of Cary, has one child, Ronald; and Mollie, who married H. G. Early, of Vanlue. Mr. Long is a member of the Lutheran church, while his wife attends the Methodist church. He is a 32nd degree Mason and belongs to the Blue Lodge and Chapter at Carey, O., to the Commandery at Findlay and to the Shrine at Toledo. He belongs also to the Knights of Pythias at Forest. In politics he is a Republican.

GEORGE J. HICKLE, one of the most prominent farmers in Hancock County, is the owner of 250 acres of fine farming land, upon which he lives, it being located in Sections 7 and 12, Delaware Township. He has resided on his present farm for fifty-three years, but was born in Ross County, O., April 15, 1836, his parents being Henry and Eliza (Smith) Hickle. Henry Hickle, who was born at Winchester in the Shenandoah Valley, Va., settled in Ross County when a young man, occupying a farm which he cultivated until his death in 1842, at which time his son George, our present subject, was but five years old. Mrs. Henry Hickle died at Mt. Blanchard in 1871.

When he was eleven years of age George J. Hickle accompanied his mother and brothers to Hancock County, they settling on a 160-acre farm one and a quarter miles east of Mt. Blanchard. He attended the Delaware Township schools and subsequently found employment as a clerk in a general store at Mt. Blanchard, which occupation he followed for

some time. Later, however, he turned his attention to farming in which pursuit he has been very successful. Besides raising the ordinary grains and other farm produce, he possesses some of the best registered horses in the state, which have taken prizes at numerous county and state fairs. Among them are the following:

Prosper No. 44,888. Prosper is recorded by the Percheron Society of America, his recorded number being 44,888. Color and description: Dark grey; star in forehead. Pedigree: Foaled May 10, 1905; bred by E. D. Kohli, Pandora, Ohio; owned by G. J. Hickle & Sons, Mt. Blanchard, O. Sire: Rotrou 27,437 (43,665), by Jules (37,987), Viliers 13,169 (8,081), by Briard 5,317 (1,630), by Brilliant 1,271 (755), by Brilliant 1,899 (756), by Coco II (714), by Vieuxchaslin (713), by Coco (712), by Mignon (715), by Jean Le Blanc (739).

Teddy No. 43,560. Teddy is recorded by the Percheron Society of America, and his recorded number is 43,560. Color and description: Black; star. Pedigree: Foaled May 10, 1905, bred by Lonzo McClain, Lima, Ohio, and owned by G. J. Hickle & Sons, Mt. Blanchard, O. Sire: Excelsior 26,128, by Itasca 20,034, by Introuvable 16,875 (24,146), by Seducteur 8,850 (7,057), by Fenelon 2,682 (38), by Brilliant 1,271 (755), by Brilliant 1,899 (756), by Coco II (714), by Vieux Chaslin (713), by Coco (712), by Mignon (715), by Jean Le Blanc (739). In addition to horses Mr. Hickle also breeds high grade cattle, hogs and sheep.

On April 15th, 1858, Mr. Hickle was married to Miss Virginia E. Latham, of Delaware Township, Hancock County, O., a daughter of Rouzee and Nancy Latham. Her parents, who were prosperous farming people, both died in this county, Rouzee Latham attaining the remarkable age of ninety-six years. Mr. and Mrs. Hickle have been the parents of eleven children, whose record in brief is as follows:

Cordelia F., born April 3, 1859, died at the age of three years. Mary E., born January 12, 1861, and became the wife of George Riter of Delaware Township, and the mother of five children—Stanley, Fairy, Emmons, Ellen and Hazel. Alben Vinton, born December 24, 1862, married Miss Hattie Warren of Hancock County, and his children are Stanley, Anna and Ethel. Maud A., born April 13, 1865, became the wife of Edward Shoemaker, of Hancock County, and her children are George, Florence, May and Helen. Blanch A., born March 24, 1867, married Mr. O. S. Bell, of Mt. Blanchard, this county. Anna E., born May 24, 1869, married J. W. Nessbaum, of Hancock County and has three children—Helen, Mabel and Bernice. Orland E., born May 5, 1871, died at the age of twenty-six years. He married Miss Fanny Stewart of Hancock County, and they had two children—Grace and Maynard. Grace G. Hickle, the eighth member of the family, was born June 11, 1873. Harry H., the ninth member, was born January 21, 1876. Lawrence C., born July 6, 1878, and Austin, born December 16, 1880, complete the family. The last named married Miss Edith Grace Jenkins, of Delaware Township. Mrs. Virginia E. Hickle, the mother of the above mentioned children, died December 5, 1909, at the age of seventy-two years. She was a worthy woman and a member for many years of the Methodist Protestant church, to which her husband also belongs, having been a member for sixty-two years. The various members of the Hickle family are worthy men

and women, of progressive citizenship and sound principles, and are esteemed and respected in the several communities in which they reside.

ALBERT J. REYCRAFT, M. D., president of the Hancock Medical Society, has been engaged in the practice of medicine at Fostoria, O., since 1895, with offices at No. 111½ South Main Street and his residence in the Hancock County side of the city. He was born in the Dominion of Canada, at Highgate, Ontario, February 22, 1862, and is a son of James and Phillicia Reycraft, the latter of whom died in 1906, but the former still resides in Highgate.

Dr. Reycraft was reared on his father's farm and attended school first at Highgate, where he graduated and went then to a more advanced school at Ridgtown, after which he went back to the farm and remained there until prepared to enter the Detroit College of Medicine, at Detroit, Mich., where he was graduated, and came then to Fostoria. He engages in a general practice but makes a specialty of diseases of women and children. Dr. Reycraft is widely known and is in the enjoyment of a very substantial practice.

Dr. Reycraft married Miss Ida A. Wigle, of Leamington, Ontario, and they have one son, James Leonard, who is a student in the Western Reserve University at Cleveland, O. For eight years Dr. Reycraft has been a member of the Hancock Medical Society and his election to its presidency is a signal mark of honor shown him by his brother practitioners. He is identified also with the Masonic fraternity.

CONRAD HILLSHAFER, one of the prominent oil producers and representative farmers of Hancock County, O., is the owner of 185 acres of valuable oil and farm land in Allen Township, his residence property of eighty acres being located about three miles north of Findlay, O. He was born October 21, 1850, in Bavaria, Germany, and is a son of Nicholas and Catherine Hillshafer.

Nicholas Hillshafer was a brewer by trade and about 1851 came alone to America. Three months after locating in Ohio, he sent to Germany for his family to come to Findlay and upon their arrival here they were greatly disappointed in not finding the father and husband. Seventeen years later it was learned through a lawsuit, that he had gone to Lawrenceburg, Ind., in search of employment, and died very suddenly while there, among strangers, thus leaving no way for his family to discover the fact of his death. His widow subsequently married David Rohrer, who was one of the hardy pioneers and large land owners of Hancock County, O. He first looked over land in this section of the country in 1827, but finding it too wild did not locate, but returned in 1833 and took up 640 acres which lay in what was later discovered to be the heart of the great oil belt of Hancock County. Had Mr. Rohrer kept the entire 640 acres until the time of his death, which occurred in 1875, he would have died a millionaire. The mother of our subject died in 1906, at the age of eighty-four years.

Conrad Hillshafer was reared in Allen Township, where his mother and step-father located when he was about five years old, and received a limited amount of schooling in the local schools. He was reared a farmer, which occupation he has always followed, and for years also dealt extensively in buying and selling stock, which work necessitated consid-

erable traveling over various parts of the country. Mr. Hillshafer is a self-made man, is a very fluent talker, and is exceptionally well informed for one whose educational advantages have been very limited. When oil was discovered in this section of the country, Mr. Hillshafer entered actively into that industry, and was soon as widely known for his extensive oil operations, as he had formerly been as a stock dealer. Besides his home farm of eighty acres, he also owns a tract of eighty acres one mile west from where he resides, both of these farms having been owned by his step-father, David Rohrer, who entered the land from the government in 1833. Mr. Hillshafer also owns twenty-five acres east of the Perrysburg turnpike road in Allen Township, and has had over seventy producing oil wells on his three farms, having at one time forty wells in operation on the home property.

Mr. Hillshafer was joined in marriage with Miss Mary Groth, a native of Wood County, O., and a daughter of Fritz Groth, and to them have been born the following children: Ella, who is the wife of Samuel Conant, of Columbus, O.; William, who is a resident of Findlay; Conrad, who married Nancy Edelman, has one child, Fred; and Elmer, and Orin.

GEORGE R. THOMPSON, who is proprietor of the leading jewelry store at Findlay and is also an optician and dealer in optical goods, was born in West Virginia, July 23, 1854, and is a son of L. F. and Sarah E. (Latham) Thompson.

L. F. Thompson, father of George R., is now in his eighty-seventh year and is an esteemed resident of Parkersburg, West Va., where he lives retired. In early manhood he was a school teacher and later entered the employ of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, with which corporation he remained for fifty years. He married Sarah E. Latham, who died in 1906.

George R. Thompson was small when his parents moved to Parkersburg, this being during the Civil War, and in that city he attended school and from there went to Cincinnati and later to Springfield, O. In 1875 he came to Findlay, at that time being a poor apprentice boy, and entered the employ of George W. Kimmell, who was in the jewelry line here. He remained with Mr. Kimmell for about one year and then was with D. C. Connell until 1885, when he went into busines for himself. He is one of the experienced men in this business and has been connected with the jewelry trade here for thirty-five continuous years. When he first came to this city he had little hope of becoming what he is, one of the representative and substantial business men of Findlay.

Mr. Thompson was married to Miss Elta B. Tate, of Findlay, O., and they have two children: Marshall B., who is associated with his father; and Kenneth M. Mr. Thompson and family are members of the First Presbyterian church. He is identified with the Masons and the Elks. He is not active in politics but has high standing as a citizen and gives hearty support to all movements affecting Findlay's substantial development and the welfare of its people.

S. C. WALKER, owner of 123 acres of fine farming land in Section 18, Delaware Township, upon which he has lived for seventeen years, was born in Shelby County, O., September 25, 1858, son of James and Melvina (Eltzroth) Walker. Our subject's father was born in Ireland and came to Ohio at the age of

twenty-one years, soon after becoming identified with railroad work, at which he continued until reaching middle life. He subsequently moved to southern Indiana, where he bought a farm, upon which he resided until his death, at the age of seventy-three years. His wife, who was a native of Ohio, died when her son, the subject of this sketch, was a babe of four months, at Sidney, O.

S. C. Walker in his boyhood attended school in Delaware Township, and subsequently began work on a farm in that township, the property being owned by his uncle, by whom he was employed. In 1893 he became its owner by purchase, and has since put in all the present standing improvements, including the house, barn and fences. Here he carries on general farming and stock raising very profitably, and is known as one of the prosperous and enterprising citizens of the township.

Mr. Walker was married in 1881, to Miss Laura Wolford, a daughter of Hamson and Barbara (Trackler) Wolford, prominent farmers of Delaware Township. Hamson Wolford lost his life fighting in defense of the Union, when his daughter Barbara was but a small child. Of this, Mr. Walker's first marriage, two children were born—James Earl and E. Guy. The former, James E. Walker, served forty-nine months in the United States Navy. E. Guy Walker, born March 24, 1887, was accidentally killed on a farm near his father's place, on January 29, 1906.

In March, 1888, the subject of this sketch was married to his second wife, who was Miss Alice Trackler of Blanchard Township, a daughter of J. A. and Anna (Poorman) Trackler, who were farming people. Of Mr. Walker's second union four children have been born, namely: Clarence Ray, born January 20, 1889, who died as the consequence of having been kicked by a colt on his father's farm, April 23, 1908; Ida May, born February 15, 1891; Harry Wayne, born October 26, 1893; and Stanley Eugene, born June 21, 1908. Mr. Walker and his family are supporters of tne Hope Chapel in Delaware Township. He is also a member of the Masonic Lodge No. 519 at Mt. Blanchard. He served as township trustee for one year and was assessor of Delaware Township from 1890 to 1895, being elected on the Republican ticket. For a number of years also he was a member of the school board of Delaware Township, in all these various positions proving a capable official and rendering good public service that was appreciated by his fellow townsmen.

DAVID B. KAGY, township trustee and one of the progressive farmers of Allen Township, resides on a farm of fifty-seven acres located about one-half mile east of Van Buren, O., and was born June 16, 1851, on his father's farm about one and a half miles east of Van Buren, O., a son of Samuel and Hannah (Baker) Kagy. Our subject's parents came to Hancock County from Fairfield County, in 1847, and settled on a farm in Allen Township.

David B. Kagy was reared on the home farm in Allen Township and received his early instruction in the local schools, later entering Mt. Union College, at Mt. Union, O., where he spent three years. After completing his education, Mr. Kagy taught school for fifteen years, teaching four terms in the Van Buren school, and also taught summer school terms several years, but usually spent the summer months in farming. In 1884, Mr. Kagy bought his present

farm of fifty-seven acres, which is located on the Ridge Road, and has lived here continuously since that time.

Mr. Kagy was married in 1879 to Elizabeth H. Higgins, a graduate in the class of 1879 at Mt. Union College, whom he met while a student there himself, and whose father, Rev. Thomas J. Higgins, had previously been pastor of the Methodist Episcopal church of Mt. Union. Mr. and Mrs. Kagy have one son, Emmerson G., a bright lad of ten years. The family are members of the Presbyterian church of Van Buren of which Mr. Kagy is now serving as congregational clerk. Mr. Kagy is a Democrat and in the fall of 1907 was elected trustee of Allen Township, and reelected to that office in 1909, his present term expiring January 1, 1912. He has also held other township offices, having previously served several terms as trustee and clerk of Allen Township.

HENRY STOUGH, whose possessions include 139 acres of valuable farming land situated in Sections 33 and 34, Cass Township, Hancock County, O., was born April 12, 1844, in Ashland County, O., where his father owned a small farm. His parents were George and Catherine (Gearheart) Stough.

George Stough was born in Pennsylvania and came to Ohio with his father, Moses Stough, who settled and lived in Ashland County, O., into old age but died at the home of his son George Stough, in Hancock County, when he was eighty-three years old. George Stough was married in Ashland County, to Catherine Gearheart, whose parents were also from Pennsylvania, and in 1853 moved with his family to Hancock County, securing land in Allen Township on which stood a small log cabin. In the following fall he built an addition which served until the present handsome and commodious brick residence took its place. George Stough cleared the land and burned the brush off where his buildings later covered a large space. He bought first 160 acres to which he subsequently added eighty acres and on this place he passed the remainder of his life, dying at the age of eighty-three years, having survived his wife. Ten children were born to them, eight in Ashland County and two in Hancock County. The family record is as follows: Eliza Jane, who is the widow of Samuel Wagner; Daniel; Mary Ann, deceased, who was the wife of H. B. McCracken; Henry; Christopher; Susanna, deceased, who was the wife of Fred Weiler, also deceased; Sarah, deceased, who was the wife of George Nelson; Catherine, deceased, who was the wife of John Taylor; Elizabeth, deceased, who was the wife of John Bly; and Amelia, deceased, who was the wife of William Shafer, also deceased.

Henry Stough was nine years old when his parents came to Hancock County, reaching here on his birthday. He was a bright, inquisitive boy and when he started to school found the schoolhouse a log structure in the woods not far from his father's cabin, and on its old slab benches he passed many a winter day later on. He was soon called on, however, to help in clearing up the land, his first work in this line being the watching of the brush heaps in burning, to see that no conflagrations started. Later he became his father's most valuable helper in farming and stock raising.

HON. JOSEPH R. KAGY

In December, 1865, Henry Stough was married to Miss Susanna Shafer, a daughter of Josiah Shafer, an old resident of Hancock County. Mrs. Stough became the mother of two children—Henrietta and William, and died in 1902. Henrietta was born in 1866 and died in June, 1905. She married Edward Wachtel and they had two children: Merle and Corinne. The latter was reared by her grandfather to the age of fifteen years and was a student in the Findlay High School when her death occurred in February, 1910. William, the only son of Mr. Stough, who was born in November, 1874, died in 1892.

Mr. Stough moved into a log cabin on his present farm in the fall of 1867, this farm being the old Shafer home place, and in 1875 he erected his present comfortable residence. He carries on general farming. In politics, as was his father, he is a Democrat and he has served as a justice of the peace and as land appraiser in 1900 and 1910.

JOSEPH OEHLSCHLAGER, director of Public Service, at Findlay, O., has been a resident of this city since 1888 and as business man and public official is widely known. He was born in a village in New York, September 14, 1855, and is a son of Martin and Amelia O. Oehlschlager, the latter of whom died when he was one year old, in New York, and the father at a later date in Iowa.

Mr. Oehlschlager was young when his father took him to Iowa and he was reared and attended school there and prior to coming to Findlay, was engaged in a grocery business in that state. After reaching this city he engaged in the liquor business in which he continued until 1902, when he became interested in the oil business and remained so engaged until in the fall of 1907, when he was elected on the Republican ticket to membership on the Board of Public Service and served as president of that body until January 1, 1910, when, under the new code he was appointed director of the Public Service by Mayor Groves. He is one of the city's substantial as well as reliable citizens. In 1895 he bought the property at No. 331 South Main Street, which is now occupied by the Edwards Shoe Company, and has other interests. Mr. Oehlschlager was married in Iowa to Miss Amelia Braumberger. He is a member of the Elks and the Maccabees.

HON. JOSEPH R. KAGY, formerly mayor of the city of Findlay, and for many years a public official of Hancock County, during which time he capably filled many offices of responsibility, has been engaged in the real estate and insurance business at Findlay, for over a decade. He was born December 21, 1842, in Fairfield County, Ohio, and in 1847 was brought to Hancock County by his parents, and from that time until the present he has been identified with the interests of this section of Ohio.

When nineteen years of age, Mr. Kagy began to teach school during the winter seasons, passing his summers in healthy farm work; and for about nine years he had charge of the public schools of Van Buren. During his many years of residence in Allen Township, Mr. Kagy proved himself an active and useful citizen, and after serving a number of terms as township clerk, assessor and treasurer, in 1877 he was elected auditor of Hancock County,

being re-elected in 1880. After the close of his second term, he served for almost two years as deputy auditor. When Hon. W. L. Carlin, then mayor of Findlay, was elected to the State Senate, Mr. Kagy, who was then serving as a member of the city council of Findlay, was elected by the council to fill out the unexpired term of Mayor Carlin, which he did to the entire satisfaction of his fellow citizens. The duties of his other public positions occupied a large part of his time, these offices including membership on the board of county school examiners, and the positions of assistant clerk of the State Senate, deputy state superintendent of insurance, and roll clerk in the Pension Department at Columbus. Since 1901, when he was put forward by the Democratic party as its candidate for state senator, Mr. Kagy has not been as active in politics as formerly and thus has found more time to give attention to his own business affairs. From 1886 to 1889, he was engaged very successfully in the oil and gas business, but since 1898 he has been mainly interested in fire insurance and realty, and in these lines is a representative business man of this city. He has offices in the Marvin Block and is agent for fire, tornado, and plate glass insurance, representing the following standard companies: the Aetna Insurance Company, of Hartford, Conn.; the Phoenix Insurance Company, of Brooklyn, New York; the Royal Exchange Assurance, of London, England; the Sun Insurance Office, of London, England; Lloyd's Plate Glass, of New York; and the Citizens, of St. Louis, Missouri.

At Van Buren, Ohio, on January 21, 1864, Mr. Kagy married Miss Catherine M. Zarbaugh, and the survivors of their family of six children are: Nora B., who resides at home and is associated with her father in the office (she is prominent in the Rebecca branch of Odd Fellowship, and is past president of the Rebecca Assembly of Ohio); Mary E., who is the wife of Dr. E. B. Jacobs, residing at Chicago, Ill.; David C. D., who is an attorney and a well known educator in Hancock County; and J. Rodney, who is engaged in the practice of dentistry, at Chicago, Ill. The family home is situated on Perrysburg Road. Mr. Kagy is an Odd Fellow and an Elk.

P. McDOWELL, who resides on his well improved farm of ninety-three acres, which is situated in Sections 4 and 9, Union Township, Hancock County, O., came here in 1877 and this has been his continuous home, He was born in Licking County, O., February 16, 1832, and is a son of John and Eliza (Ackley) McDowell.

John McDowell was a native of Ohio and was a farmer all his life. In 1836 he moved from Licking to Putnam County, where he died in 1842. He married Eliza Ackley, who was born in New York, in 1812, and died in Putnam County, in 1900. They were well known and highly respected people.

P. McDowell obtained his education in boyhood in the country schools but early went to work as he was only ten years old when his father died. When he reached manhood he married Miss Nancy E. Harris, who was born in Licking County, O., in 1833, and they began housekeeping in Putnam County but moved to Hancock County and settled on the present farm in 1877. They have had six children, namely: Lorenzo, who died in Putnam County in 1877; Ansel, who died at the age of four weeks; Mary, who married a Mr. Rother, of Hancock County, and they have six chil-

dren—Claude, Olive, Clare, Arby, Guy, and Alma. Lida, who married Sheridan Wilkins, of Putnam County; Delbert, who married Miss Allie Aurand, resides on his farm in Union Township, they have one son, Hollis age eight years; and Clara, who resides at home. The mother of the above family died here in 1897, when aged sixty-four years. She was a loving wife and mother and a valued member of the Methodist Episcopal church at Benton Ridge. Mr. McDowell is also connected with this church and for a number of years was the superintendent of the Sunday-school.

General farming and stock raising are carried on by Mr. McDowell and he has always met with satisfactory returns. It is conceded that this is the best grain farm in Union Township. At different times he has made improvements, has substantial buildings, plenty of fencing and excellent accommodations for his various kinds of stock.

PETER A. MATHEWSON, who carries on general farming and has a reputation for raising especially fine road horses, owns 160 acres of valuable land situated in Section 25, Orange Township, Hancock County, O. Mr. Mathewson was born in Van Buren Township, Hancock County, May 1, 1882, and is a son of Dr. W. R. and Flora (Bender) Mathewson.

Dr. W. R. Mathewson is a well known veterinary surgeon and horse dealer and has been a resident of Bluffton, O., since September, 1900. He married Flora Bender, a native of Orange Township, who, like himself had neither brother nor sister. They had but two children born to them: Lottie and Peter A.

Peter A. Mathewson obtained his education in School District No. 7, Orange Township, and then began to assist his father, having always resided on a farm with the exception of a short period following his marriage, when he lived at Bluffton. In association with his father he has greatly improved this farm, about 102 acres of which is in first class condition, the soil mellow and fertile and very productive. They carefully drained the land and it is one of the best cared for farms in the township. The farm buildings are substantial and have been remodeled and made very presentable. Mr. Mathewson is an enterprising and practical young farmer and horseman and success is attending his efforts.

Mr. Matthewson married Amanda Bame, who is a daughter of George Bame, of Williamstown, and two children have been born to them: Kenneth G. and Byrl. The former died April 15, 1904, and was buried at Hassam Cemetery. The latter was born June 12, 1902, and is a bright student at school. Mr. Mathewson calls himself an Independent Democrat in his political views. He is a member of the order of Modern Woodmen of America and attends the lodge at Bluffton.

REUBEN B. KEERAN, M. D., physician and surgeon, with offices at No. 315½ South Main Street, Findlay, O., has been in active practice in this city since 1886 and is numbered with her leading professional men. He was born near Burgoon, Sandusky County, O., February 20, 1853, and is a son of Nathaniel and Eliza (Linch) Keeran.

Nathaniel Keeran, who was a blacksmith and farmer, came to Hancock County in

1866, and settled on a farm near McComb, on which he continued to reside until his death, in 1879. His widow survived until 1886.

Reuben B. Keeran obtained his education in the country schools and a select school at Findlay and thus prepared himself for teaching, and afterward taught three terms in the country districts, one term at Findlay, and two terms in Clark County, Ill., where he had gone in 1876. Prior to this move, however, he had read medicine with Dr. Jesse Watson, at McComb, Hancock County, and later entered the Cincinnati Eclectic Medical College, from which he was graduated in 1876. He immediately engaged in practice in Clark County but his health failed and instead of practicing he taught school for a time and rested a year, when he resumed medical practice and remained in Clark County, until 1886, when he located permanently at Findlay. Dr. Keeran is a member of the Northwestern, the Ohio State and the National Medical Societies. He married Miss Annie C. Fahrer, of Lancaster, O.

WILLIAM P. HAMMOND, who conducts the only bakery at Rawson, O., has been in business here for the past four years and has become one of the representative citizens. He was born at Mt. Blanchard, Hancock County, O., May 15, 1851, and is a son of Thomas and Mary (Missmore) Hammond.

Thomas Hammond was born on a farm in Jackson Township, Hancock County, and for a number of years was an acceptable school teacher through Delaware and Jackson Townships. He died at Mt. Blanchard in 1875. He married Mary Missmore, who was born in Pennsylvania, on the farm of her parents. She survived until 1901, her death taking place in Delaware Township, Hancock County.

William P. Hammond attended the schools of Delaware Township and later became a teacher, for a number of terms teaching in Jackson and Amanda Townships. He has always taken an active part in politics, being identified with the Democratic party, and for eight years served as clerk of Amanda Township, being first elected in 1880, and for one year was also township assessor, elected to this office in 1890. In the performance of public duties he has been honest and efficient and numbers his friends, both political and personal, by the score.

In 1875, Mr. Hammond was married to Miss Laura Lee, who died in 1904 at Vanlue, O., aged thirty-five years. They had three children: Harry, Cora and Trude. Harry married Gertrude Corbin, of Big Lick Township and they have one daughter, Helen. Cora married Charles Kear, of Wyandot County, and they have two children: Russell and David. Trude married Robert Earley, of Amanda Township, and they have one son, Clarence. In 1905, Mr. Hammond was married to Miss Emma Shull, a daughter of Franklin Shull, a farmer in Amanda Township. Mr. Hammond and family belong to the United Brethren church at Rawson. He is a member of Lodge No. 353, I. O. O. F., at Vanlue, and for the past ten years has been a member of Lodge No. 710, Knights of Pythias, at Vanlue.

CHRISTOPHER STOUGH, owner of 160 acres of productive and highly cultivated farm land in Allen Township, Hancock County, O., was born August 1, 1846, on a farm about three miles northeast of Ashland, Ashland County, O., and is a son of George and Catherine (Geirhart) Stough.

In 1853 Christopher Stough came to Hancock County with his parents, who settled on land in the extreme southeastern part of Allen Township, where the father died June 9, 1898. The mother died in 1893. Here Mr. Stough was reared and educated, attending the local schools, and has always followed farming and stock raising. The first two years of his married life were spent on the Eckert farm in Cass Township, which was originally owned by his wife's grandfather Eckert, and the three following years were spent on his father's farm in Allen Township. Since 1873, Mr. Stough has been living on his present farm, eighty acres being located in Section 32, and eighty acres, which corner to the southwest, being located in Section 31.

Mr. Stough was united in marriage with Miss Maria Eckert, a daughter of Sullivan Eckert, of Marion Township, and they have had three children: George, who is president of the Allen Township School Board, lives on a farm adjoining that of his father; Charlie J., who resides on the old Eckert farm in Cass Township; and Guy, who figures prominently in the oil industry, resides on Center Street, Findlay, O. Mr. Stough is an adherent of the Democratic party, politcally, and served eight years as trustee of Allen Township, his term expiring in 1907.

O. H. SAUNDERS, M. D., physician and surgeon at Findlay, O., and a representative member of his profession, was born at Benton Ridge, Hancock County, O, March 22, 1864, and is a son of Thomas J. and Hannah L. (Ballard) Saunders.

Thomas J. Saunders was born in Fairfield County, O., and came to Hancock County when twelve years old, with his father, Jacob G. Saunders, who established himself in the shoemaking trade at Benton Ridge. Thomas J. Saunders learned his father's trade and he also taught school and after coming to Findlay, where he died in 1901, he conducted the Saunders Hotel for a number of years. His widow survives.

O. H. Saunders was reared at Benton Ridge and attended the public schools there, subsequently becoming a teacher and for nine years prior to 1887, when he accompanied his parents to Findlay, he taught school in Hancock County. About that time he entered the Ohio Medical College, now the University of Cincinnati, and was graduated there in the class of 1891, when he returned to Findlay and engaged in medical practice here for one year, moving then to West Indepedence, where he continued to practice for eight years. In 1900 he returned to Findlay and established his office at No. 315½ South Main Street. Dr. Saunders is a member of the Hancock County, the Ohio State and the National Medical Societies and keeps thoroughly abreast with the times in the advancement of medical science. He is an active citizen and in 1901 was elected a member of the Findlay School Board and since 1907 has been clerk of this body.

Dr. Saunders was married to Miss Anna E. Winbigler, a daughter of William Winbigler, of Maryland, and they have two children: Ralph Thomas and Marie L. He is fraternally

affiliated with the order of Ben Hur and the Maccabees.

EDWARD GEORGE, M. D., who has been engaged in the practice of medicine at Van Buren, O., since 1876, was born March 18, 1850, in Mercer County, Pa., and is a son of Jonathan and Elizabeth (Harlow) George. The father of our subject was a carpenter and cabinetmaker by trade and about 1855 came to Hancock County, O., and followed his trade at Benton Ridge during the remainder of his active life. He died in Findlay, O., in 1901, and his wife died in 1900.

Edward George was reared at Benton Ridge, O., where he obtained his early education in the common schools and also taught one year. He then began reading medicine with Dr. T. C. Ballard, formerly of Benton Ridge, but later of Findlay, and after studying with him one year and six months, entered the Medical Department of the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, where he spent one year. He then entered the Medical College at Indianapolis, Ind., and graduated from same with the class of 1876, and has since been successfully engaged in the practice of his profession at Van Buren, Allen Township, Hancock County, O. Dr. George owns a fine tract of farming land in Allen Township. He is a member of the American, Ohio State, Hancock County, and the Northwestern Ohio Medical Societies, and is affiliated with the Knights of Pythias. His religious connection is with the Presbyterian church of Van Buren.

Dr. George was united in marriage in 1875 with Miss Esther Whistler, a daughter of Samuel Whistler, a miller and farmer of Benton Ridge, O.

NORMAN HUFFMAN, a prominent farmer and stockman, owning 160 acres of valuable land situated in Section 26, Cass Township, Hancock County, O., has oil and financial interests in this section and is a representative business man. He now enjoys one of the fine residences of the township, but he was born June 3, 1845, in a round log house that stood on his father's farm in Washington Township, Hancock County. He is a son of William and Margaret (Ruff) Huffman.

William Huffman came to Hancock County in 1844 from Portage County, O., and located first on a tract of eighty acres, situated in Section 7, which he later sold and bought sixty-one acres in the same township. He died on that place a comparatively young man although he had a family of ten children. He married Margaret Ruff, who died in 1904, being then more than eighty years of age. Hiram, the eldest son, was a member of Co. A, 49th O. Vol. Inf., and died during the Civil War. Joseph, who was a member of the same regiment, survived the entire period of strife and now resides in Michigan. Christina is the widow of David Caldwell. Alvira is the wife of Reason Crozer. Mary is the widow of John Wineland. The others survive: Jefferson and Addison, twins; George, Jeremiah and Norman, the last named being the fourth in order of birth.

Norman Huffman grew to manhood in Washington Township. His father died while his older brothers were in the army and for this reason his own school period was shortened as he had to take charge of the farm under these conditions. He remained with his mother until his own marriage and by that time some of the younger sons were capable of managing her interests. He purchased his present farm from V. E. Baker and while the brick

EDWARD G. HERSH, M. D.

residence was standing, he found plenty of improving to do in other ways and a large amount of buildings and sheds to erect for his cattle, as he makes a great specialty of all kinds of stock. He gives attention only to the best strains, breeding and handling Percheron horses, Shorthorn cattle and Chester White hogs. He has ten producing oil wells which are a steady source of income. He is interested also as a stockholder in the Arcadia Bank at Arcadia, O.

Mr. Huffman was married the first time to Mary Anderson, who died after the birth of seven children, namely: Morris, who is deceased, married Lola McCracken, also deceased; William E., who married Etta Mosier, has four children—Frances, Helen, Donald and Pearl; Laura, who is the wife of Ballard Nelson; Ephraim and Arthur, twins, the former of whom married Lucy Taylor and they have one child, Lloyd; Bertha, who is the wife of Reily Canfield, and they have two children —Orpha and Fay; and Della, who is the wife of Edward Walters and they have one child, Florence. Mr. Huffman's second marriage was to Mary A. Taylor, a daughter of George Taylor, formerly an old resident of Hancock County, now of Indiana. In politics, Mr. Huffman is a Democrat and he has served as school director, township trustee and in other offices. He is identified with Lodge No. 421, Knights of Pythias, Arcadia, O.

EDWARD G. HERSH, M. D., who commands a large medical practice at McComb, O., where he is a leading citizen and has property investments, was born at Grand Rapids, Wood County, O., January 29, 1865, and is a son of Henry and Hannah (Bell) Hersh.

Henry Hersh was born in Holmes County, O., in 1830 and died in Wood County, in 1890. Prior to 1860 he moved to Wood County and there engaged in farming. He served as a soldier in the Union army during the Civil War and was identified with a post of the Grand Army of the Republic. He married Hannah Bell, who was also born in Holmes County and still survives, being now in her seventy-eighth year. Two of their family of children are deceased, but the following are living: Maggie J., who is the wife of J. B. Gunday, of Toledo; John A., who resides in Cleveland; George E., who is a lumber merchant at Grand Rapids, O.; W. H., who is a graduate of the College of Physicians and Surgeons at Chicago, where he is engaged in medical practice; Arthur B., who is engaged in farming near Grand Rapids; and Edward G. In politics, Henry Hersh was a Republican and both he and wife were members of the United Brethren church.

Edward G. Hersh obtained his education in the common schools and the High School at Grand Rapids and then took a scientific course in the Middlepoint Normal School. After teaching school for four terms he entered the Cincinnati College of Medicine and Surgery, which is now known as the University of Cincinnati, and was graduated in the class of 1890. In the same year he came to McComb and has identified himself with the people and interests here, in 1900 completing the erection of his beautiful modern residence. He is a member of the leading medical organizations of the country, including the American Medical Association, the Ohio State Medical Society, the Northwestern Ohio Medical Association, the Hancock County Medical Association, and the National Association of Railway Surgeons. He

is special surgeon for the C. H. & D. Railroad and the Nickel Plate Railroad.

On October 6, 1890, Dr. Hersh was married to Miss Cora Kimberlin, who was born and reared at Grand Rapids, a daughter of Jacob and Sabina Kimberlin. They are members of the Presbyterian church. Dr. Hersh is a 32nd degree Mason, a Knight of Pythias, and belongs also to the Elks. In his political views he is a Republican.

JOHN C. FIRMIN, proprietor of Firmin's Drug Store, at Findlay, O., has been owner of his present business since the fall of 1890. He was born at Wilbraham, Mass., October 5, 1857, and is a son of F. B. and Mary (Chapin) Firmin.

F. B. Firmin died in Massachusetts, in 1881, after which his widow came to Findlay, where her death occurred in 1903. The name of Firmin has been a prominent one in medical and drug circles of Findlay. The late Dr. Lorenzo Firmin, an uncle of John C. Firmin, in his day was one of the eminent physicians of this city. Dr. F. W. Firmin, a brother of John C., is associated with his son, Dr. John M. Firmin, in medical and surgical practice at Findlay. Dr. Lorenzo and Dr. F. W. Firmin were already established at Findlay when John C. Firmin came here in 1877.

John C. Firmin was twenty years old when he came to Findlay and started to learn the drug business with John Decker, who was then the proprietor of what is now known as the Central Drug Company. After serving the required apprenticeship, Mr. Firmin entered Washington College, at Washington, D. C., where he was graduated in 1883, with the degree of Phar. D. He then returned to his native state and was engaged there in connection with the drug business for seven years, during the larger part of the time in the city of Worcester. In 1890 he returned to Findlay and bought the old Huber & Burns store and has continued in business here ever since. He carries a full line of drugs, sundries, candies and cigars, together with all the specialties found in a modern drug store and has probably the most complete establishment in this line in Hancock County.

Mr. Firmin has long been recognized as one of the representative and public spirited citizens of Findlay. He served continuously as city treasurer from 1903 until January 1, 1910, being elected to that office on the Republican ticket. He is a member of the Masonic fraternity. Mr. Firmin has never married.

LUKE EDWARDS, a citizen of Mt. Cory, O., to which pleasant town he came in 1907, for ten years previously resided on a farm of eighty acres near the town, and is well known all through this section. He was born at Liverpool, England, May 7, 1852, and is a son of Thomas and Anna (King) Edwards. The parents of Mr. Edwards were born in Monmouthshire, England. They came to America and settled first at Richmond, Va., and later in Medina County, O., and lived also at St. Louis, Mo., the father in all these places working as a heater in a rolling mill. He and wife both died at Peru, Ind., the father in 1907 and the mother in 1908.

Luke Edwards was mainly educated in the schools of St. Louis. During a large portion of his business life he has been interested in the oil industry, for some years being in the employ of the Standard Oil Company, near Findlay. At present he

owns a lease of 1,000 acres of oil land at Fort Recovery, O., and has thirty producing wells.

In 1873, Mr. Edwards was married to Miss Sarah Evans, a daughter of John and Martha (Smith) Evans, the former of whom was a roller in a tin plate mill in England, where he died in 1870. Mrs. Edwards came to America in 1870, with her brother, Anthony Evans. Their grandmother, Sarah Anthony, was the daughter of a very prominent and wealthy man in England. Mr. and Mrs. Edwards went to housekeeping at first in St. Louis. They have three children: John, who is a train repairer, married a Mrs. Metzler, of Chicago, and they have two children—Preston and Wallace; Gordon, who married Ollie Shine, of Mt. Cory, has two children—Treva and Waneta; and Lottie Doris, who is the wife of Fred Fisher and they have one daughter, Beatrice.

ADAM BOWER, general farmer and highly respected citizen of Orange Township, Hancock County, O., where he owns a farm of forty acres, situated in Section 12, was born in Franklin County, O., May 17, 1854. His parents were Jacob and Catherine (Fendrick) Bower.

Jacob Bower was born in Germany and was twenty-seven years of age when he came to Franklin County, O., where he soon after was married to Catherine Fendrick, also a native of Germany. They continued to live in Franklin County until after the birth of three children—Mary, Elizabeth, and Adam—and then moved to Van Buren Township, Hancock County, taking up forty acres of land on the western township line. Later Jacob Bower sold that land and bought eighty acres south of Jenera, also in Van Buren Township, and there the rest of the children were born — Catherine, Henry, Maggie and Barbara. Jacob Bower lived there into old age, his death occurring October 31, 1909, when he was ninety-one years old. His burial was in the cemetery attached to the Lutheran church of Eagle Creek of which he was a member. His widow still survives and lives on the homestead.

Adam Bower had attended school for one term when the family moved from Franklin County although he was only five years old at the time. He continued at school, during the winter seasons, until he was eighteen years of age, devoting his summers from boyhood to farm work. After he married he settled on his present property and he has made all the excellent improvements, erecting the substantial buildings and attending to the draining of the land. He also had a large part of the farm to clear and still has five acres in valuable timber. As far as he knows, his land has neither oil nor gas as he has never thought it advisable to make tests.

Mr. Bower was married in Van Buren Township to Miss Catherine Essinger, a daughter of John and Elizabeth Essinger, and they have had five children: Andy, Elizabeth, George, Lucinda and Henry Edward, the last named having died when five months old. Mr. Bower and wife are members of the Evangelical Lutheran church of Eagle Creek. He votes the Democratic ticket.

JACKSON H. CRAWFORD, chief of the Findlay police force, has been a member

of the organization since April 20, 1902, and has occupied his present responsible position since August 1, 1909. He was born in Warren County, Pa., May 27, 1865, and is a son of Patrick Henry and Margaret (Downs) Crawford. Henry Crawford was a railroad man for some years but now is engaged in farming in Shelby County, O., where both he and wife reside. In 1868 they moved to Wadsworth and later to Mansfield, O., and still later to their farm.

Jackson H. Crawford was reared at Mansfield and attended school there and then went into the oil fields and for thirteen years was in the employ of E. Wanamaker, the large oil producer. He was twenty-three years old when he came to Findlay, March 1, 1888, and was in the oil industry until he became a member of the police force as indicated above. Faithful and efficient service brought about promotion and in the summer of 1909 he was appointed chief of the department by Hon. J. B. Walker, mayor of Findlay. His administration has been an effective one and he commands the confidence of the city. Chief Crawford was married at Shelby, O., to Miss Laura E. Barga, and they have two children: Verl D. and Myrtle.

WILLIAM H. FALK, postmaster at Mt. Cory, O., and proprietor of a general store, was born in Adams County, Ind., and is a son of Sylvanus and Margaret Falk.

The parents of Mr. Falk were born in Pennsylvania. When the father was small his parents came to Hancock County when the present site of Mt. Cory was covered with a dense forest growth. The grandfather secured eighty acres of Government land, which Sylvanus Falk assisted him to clear. He continued to live on the farm until he went for a time to Indiana, where he worked in a tannery. He then came back to Hancock County and now resides retired at Mt. Cory. He married a member of an old Pennsylvania family that came to Fairfield County, O. She died at Mt. Cory in 1906.

William H. Falk was reared in Union Township, Hancock County, where he attended school. After his marriage he moved to Mt. Cory and has become one of the substantial business men of the place. He owns the largest business block in the town, which he has completed within the past six years and his general store leads all other enterprises of its kind in volume and quality of stock. He handles groceries, shoes, hats, caps and dry goods, and since April 1, 1906, he has been postmaster.

In 1892, Mr. Falk was married to Miss Sophia Fox, whose parents were farming people residing one and one-half miles north of Rawson, O. The mother still resides on the homestead but the father died in 1902. Mr. and Mrs. Falk have six children:: Marquerite Levon, Dorothy, Winona, Donald and Elizabeth. In politics, Mr. Falk is a Republican.

EDWARD BOUTWELL, who carries on general farming and stock raising on his valuable farm of 100 acres, which is situated in Section 14, Orange Township, Hancock County, O., was born in this township, March 19, 1866, and is a son of Edwin and Rebecca (Elder) Boutwell.

Edwin Boutwell was born in the State of New York and in boyhood accompanied his

parents to Coshocton County, O., where he was educated in the schools of that day, mostly of the pioneer type. He then came into Hancock County and soon married Rebecca Elder, of Mt. Blanchard, a daughter of Robert Elder. They settled in Orange Township and there eleven children were born to them, three of whom are living. Edwin Boutwell was one of the early settlers and did the most of the clearing of his land. Later in life he moved to the State of Washington in search of health and lived there until his death, in his seventy-fifth year. His wife died when aged seventy-two years and was buried in the Hassam Cemetery, Orange Township. They were members of the Riley Creek Baptist church.

Edward Boutwell has almost always lived on his present farm and as soon as his school days were over began to give his father much assistance. He spent the first year after his marriage in Van Wert County and then returned to Orange Township and secured the southeast quarter of the homestead. This part of the estate he has greatly improved, having erected all the substantial buildings now standing and having done all the underdraining and ditching. The first wild-cat well drilled in Orange Township was on his farm and some oil and gas were developed. He has six acres in very valuable timber.

Mr. Boutwell was married in 1885, to Miss Eliza Zarabaugh, a daughter of Peter Zarabaugh, of Orange Township, and they have had eleven children: Charles H., Burley, William, Arthur, George, Luella, Ward, Etta, Mabel Cloyce and Ruth. The family attend the Baptist church. In politics Mr. Boutwell is a Democrat as was his father before him.

FRED E. ANDERSON, V. S., with office at No. 130 East Crawford Street, Findlay, O., entered into the practice of his profession in this city in 1887, and has built up a large business in this section. He was born at Carey, Wyandot County, O., April 1, 1864, and is a son of Isaiah J. and Elizabeth (Stauffer) Anderson.

Isaiah J. Anderson was born and reared at Fostoria, O., and was a son of James Anderson, a pioneer there, who once owned several hundred acres of land and conducted one of the early stores of that place. From Fostoria, Isaiah J. Anderson moved to Carey, in Wyandot County, where he conducted a store until 1869, when he moved onto his farm. He died in July, 1905, having survived his wife since 1882.

Fred E. Anderson was five years old when his parents moved on the farm and he remained there until he was nineteen years of age. While he was never particularly interested in the tilling of the soil, from boyhood he liked animals and was able to control them and when the time came for him to choose a pursuit and profession, he decided to be a veterinary surgeon and to this end became a student in the veterinary college at Toronto, Canada, where he was graduated in 1886. He practiced at Carey from April 1, 1886, until January 1, 1887, when he came to Findlay. He stands at the head of his profession in Hancock County.

Dr. Anderson married Miss Laura E. Moses, of Sandusky County, and they have two children: Harry T. and Gertrude O. He recently purchased a beautiful residence

at No. 219 East Sandusky Street. He is identified with the Masonic fraternity.

HERBERT S. SOLT, general farmer and owner of eighty acres of well improved land which is situated in Section 21, Eagle Township, Hancock County, O., seven and one-half miles southwest of Findlay, on the Rawson road, was born on this place, March 9, 1868. His parents were Peter and Henrietta (Cloud) Solt.

Peter Solt was born in Fairfield County, O., as was also his wife, and they came to Eagle Township in the fall of 1855 and settled here when for miles and miles around there was nothing but forest. Peter Solt engaged in stock buying for many years and made many trips to New York to find a market, driving his stock himself. He lived to see many changes of all kinds, his death occurring June 20, 1908. His wife was a daughter of Mordecai Cloud, who was a prosperous farmer in Fairfield County. Mrs. Solt survives and lives with her son, D. B. Solt, at Rawson, Ohio.

Herbert S. Solt obtained his education in the township schools and from boyhood has been busy on the farm on which he was born. He carries on a general farming line and raises considerable stock, each year having hogs, sheep, horses and cattle to sell. Since coming into possession of the farm he has done quite a large amount of improving, building a commodious and comfortable farm house and also a substantial barn and he has also put down enough tile to ensure proper drainage. Mr. Solt is a progressive farmer and carries on his various operations according to modern ideas.

On May 18, 1909, Mr. Solt was married to Miss Glenn Treece, a daughter of Isaac and Amy Treece, and they have one child, Rena Lucile. Mrs. Solt was a teacher prior to her marriage and taught in Van Buren Township from 1907 until 1908 and later taught one term in Eagle Township, and was very highly esteemed in both neighborhoods. Mr. Solt takes no very active interest in politics but he is a fair-minded man and his neighbors know that he may be depended upon to support all measures which promise to be beneficial to his section.

GEORGE FRANKLIN VAN EMAN, who has been postmaster of Van Buren, O., since February 6, 1908, when he succeeded G. S. Brushwood, was for many years engaged in agricultural pursuits in Cass Township, Hancock County, O. He was born August 30, 1863, on a farm in Cass Township, and is a son of Joseph Cooper and Mary E. (Hollingshead) Van Eman.

Joseph Cooper Van Eman was born in Greene County, Pa., and at the age of thirteen years came to Hancock County, O., with his parents, who located on a farm six miles west of Findlay in Blanchard Township. Here he was reared to maturity and during his early manhood taught school a few terms, and engaged in the mercantile business, but spent his later years on a farm of 150 acres in Cass Township, where his death occurred in 1891. He was one of the substantial farmers and prominent citizens of the county, and is still survived by his widow, who is a resident of Bloomdale, Wood County, O.

George F. Van Eman was reared on the home farm in Cass Township and for years was engaged in farming in that township, removing to Van Buren, O., in 1903, in which

year he erected a modern residence, which is one of the finest homes in Van Buren, having all of the latest conveniences and luxuries, including steam heating, and a hot and cold water system. He also owns an interest in the old home farm of 150 acres in Cass Township, which is very valuable oil property.

In 1886, Mr. Van Eman was united in marriage with Miss Elizabeth Smith, who was born and reared in Cass Township, and is a daughter of Aaron and Margaret (Gross) Smith, who were prominent farmers of this township. The father died in the spring of 1906, and the mother died in 1896. Mr. and Mrs. Van Eman have one son, Charles Ross, who, after graduating from the Van Buren High School attended Wooster College for two years, after which he taught two terms in Cass Township. Mr. Van Eman is a man of public spirit and enterprise, and has served in various township offices, having been constable of Cass Township for six years, road supervisor for two years, and truant officer of Van Buren one year.

JOHN T. MONTGOMERY, who stands at the head of many of the financial institutions and important industries of Hancock County, is one of the prominent and influential citizens of Findlay. He is vice-president of the Commercial Bank and Savings Company and also president of the Independent Torpedo Company, both of Findlay; is president of the Eastlake Milling and Mining Company of Edwards County, Colo., and also president of the Arkansas Land and Developing Company and of other smaller business combinations. Additionally he owns farm and oil lands in Hancock and Mercer Counties and properties of value in other parts of the country, and is one of the very successful developers, producers, dealers and contractors in oil.

John T. Montgomery was born at Renfrew, near Ottawa, Dominion of Canada, in 1853, and is a son of William Montgomery, who was born in Ireland in 1820 and emigrated to Canada, where he died in 1894. Mr. Montgomery is a true type of self-made man. He had few advantages of any kind in his youth and was yet a boy when he learned the blacksmith trade and spent his early manhood working at the forge. When twenty-four years old, in 1877, he went to the Pennsylvania oil fields and worked for a time as a blacksmith in Clarion County, in the meanwhile carefully investigating and subsequently acquiring a small lease in Allegany County, N. Y., which was a part of the Bradford oil fields, lying just across the state line from McKean County, Pa. Just ten years later, in 1887, Mr. Montgomery transferred the scene of his operations to Findlay, O., entering then upon what has proved a remarkably successful career as a producer and contractor in oil. He became senior member of the firm of Montgomery & Stitt, at the beginning of his operations, one of the most widely known firms in all this section, one that owned wells in Hancock, Wood, Mercer, Sandusky and Lucas Counties, O. He also became interested in lumber and at one time, in asociation with two other capitalists, was the owner of the Findlay Lumber Company, which acquired large tracts of timber land in Missouri. Gradually his business interests broadened and, as mentioned above, he is identified with numerous enterprises of recognized worth and importance in different sections. Mr. Montgomery in many ways has been a decided factor in the development and progress made at Findlay, for in the advancement of the city

he chose as his home, he has taken pride and in numerous ways he has contributed to its welfare, not ostentatiously, for such is not Mr. Montgomery's nature, but along the quiet lines that make for permanency. He is notably charitable and the support he gives to benevolent bodies has been willingly and cheerfully bestowed.

In September, 1893, Mr. Montgomery was married (first) to Miss Anna M. George, who, at death, was survived by one daughter, Hortensia. In 1897, Mr. Montgomery was married (second) to Miss Lida M. Shultz, a daughter of Rev. J. M. Shultz, then pastor of the Methodist Episcopal church at Findlay. Two children were born to this marriage: John William, and Irene. The family home is a beautiful residence situated at No. 510 W. Sandusky Street, Findlay. Both Mr. and Mrs. Montgomery are active members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and they occupy a leading positon in the city's pleasant social circles. Mr. Montgomery is a member of the Masonic fraternity.

GEORGE S. STOUGH, president of the school board in Allen Township, Hancock County, O., is a general farmer and stock dealer, and resides on a tract of eighty acres located in Section 32, Allen Township, and is one of the leading citizens of the community in which he lives. He was born September 1, 1868, on a farm in Cass Township, Hancock County, O., and is a son of Christopher Stough.

George S. Stough was three years of age when his parents settled in Allen Township, where he has lived continuously since that time. His education was obtained in the schools of the district, and he has always made farming and stock dealing his occupation. He has made many important improvements on the farm, including the erection of his fine frame residence, to take the place of the old dwelling which was destroyed by fire on January 2, 1905.

Mr. Stough was joined in marriage with Annie Hudson, who was born and reared in Allen Township, a daughter of John W. Hudson, and of their union have been born the following children: Chloe, Collins F., Gail, Glen, Ralph, Merle, Bessie, Gladys, and Clarke. The three last named are deceased, Clarke dying in the fall of 1909, aged three years. Mr. Stough holds membership with the I. O. O. F., and order of Ben Hur. He has been a member of the school board of Allen Township for the past four years, and was elected president of that body in 1909.

DANIEL F. LIGHTFOOT, a leading citizen of Portage Township, Hancock County, O., and township road superintendent, resides upon his valuable farm of eighty acres, which is situated in Section 9, three and one-half miles northeast of the farm on which he was born, December 3, 1851. His parents were Henry and Margaret (Russell) Lightfoot.

Henry Lightfoot was born in Indiana and was a son of Henry H. Lightfoot. The former came to Portage Township when a young man and the latter followed at a later date and died here during the Civil War. Henry Lightfoot served three years as a soldier in that great struggle, being a member of Co. K, 21st O. Vol. Inf. He was married to Margaret Russell, who was born in Pennsylvania and was brought to Portage Township in girlhood, by her parents, Thomas and Susan Russell. In 1858, Henry Lightfoot and family moved to

Findlay and he died there in 1900 and his wife in 1895.

Daniel F. Lightfoot was seven years old when he was brought to Findlay where he was reared and educated. He had a natural leaning in youth toward mechanics and learned the business of stationary engineer and for twenty-one years made that his main line of work, for seven years of this period being employed at the electric light station at Findlay. He has owned his present farm since 1887 but did not locate on it until the spring of 1905. He carries on a general farming line and has demonstrated that a man may be competent in more than one line of activity if he exercises good judgment.

Mr. Lightfoot was married to Miss Louisa Pendleton, a daughter of Joel and Amy (Sherman) Pendleton, the former of whom died in 1893 and the latter in 1905. Joel Pendleton was a leading citizen of Hancock County for years and was county surveyor. Mr. and Mrs. Lightfoot have had six children: Frank, who is an electrician, lives at Los Angeles, Calif.; Carrie M., who resides at home; Bessie B., who died aged nine years; Amy E., who is the wife of Wallace A. Archer; and Willie J. and Myrtle O.

In politics Mr. Lightfoot is a Republican and he has served in a number of responsible public positions. From 1889 until 1895 he was superintendent of the Hancock County Infirmary, and from 1886 until 1889, he was superintendent of Maple Grove Cemetery. He has been interested in military affairs for a number of years and helped to organize the old organization known as Co. B, 11th O. N. G., which now forms Co. A, 2nd O. N. G., of which he was captain for several years. For eleven years he was identified with the National Guard, entering as a private and advancing through merit to a captaincy. During the Spanish-American War he served as captain of an organization of the Sons of Veterans and he is generally known as Captain Lightfoot.

CLARENCE JOSEPH OLLER, cashier of The Commercial Bank & Savings Company, at Findlay, O., of which he was one of the organizers, has been identified with the banking business for more than twenty years. He was born on a farm in Delaware County, O., August 23, 1863, and is a son of John and Mary Oller, the latter of whom is deceased, but the former continues to live in Delaware County.

Clarence J. Oller remained on the farm until he was seventeen years old, and then attended school at Delaware, O., securing a complete Normal and business trainng in the Ohio Business College and the National Pen Art Hall and Business College of Delaware, O., and the Iron City Commercial College of Pittsburgh, Pa.

Mr. Oller, after having graduated from the above named schools, purchased an interest in the National Pen Art Hall and Business College and was associated with Professor George W. Michael for one and one-half years, severing his connection with this institution in 1883. He came to Findlay and organized the Findlay Business College, which he successfully conducted for about seven years, after which his connection began with the banking business. He began with The Farmers National Bank, now The Buckeye National Bank, where he remained eight years, and then went to Greenspring, O., where he organized The Commercial Bank Company and remained

three and one-half years, and then returned to Findlay.

The Commercial Bank & Savings Company, of Findlay, was organized in the latter part of 1900 and began business on February 20, 1901. Mr. E. C. Taylor was the first president, and continued until the spring of 1910, and Mr. Oller has been cashier from the beginning. The other officers are: John B. Heimhofer, of Findlay, president; John T. Montgomery, vice-president; and Charles H. Bigelow, secretary-treasurer. The officers are directors, together with Dr. N. L. MacLachlan and W. J. Frey, treasurer of Hancock County, O., and N. W. Cunningham, of Bluffton, O. These are all men of capital and high personal standing.

Mr. Oller was married to Miss Nellie J. Ballard, of Hancock County, a daughter of Dr. H. D. Ballard. They have one daughter, Mary Imogene.

Mr. Oller is additionally interested in successful business enterprises, being director and treasurer of The Findlay Sucker Rod Company, a director in The United States Electric Porcelain Company, treasurer of The Buckeye Steam Laundry Company, vice-president of The Commercial Bank Company, of Greenspring, O., and cashier of The Vanlue Banking Company, Vanlue, O.

He is identified with the Odd Fellows and Knights of Pythias, and is a member of the First M. E. church of Findlay, O.

MNASON A. ADAMS, a well known farmer and much esteemed citizen of Allen Township, Hancock County, O., is the owner of 164 acres of highly cultivated farm land, eighty-four acres of which lie in Section 20, and eighty acres in Section 29, and has practically been a lifelong resident of this community. He was born July 7, 1833, near Danville, Columbia County, Pa., which is now known as Montour County, and is a son of Paul and Margaret (Diehl) Adams.

Paul Adams came from Montour County, Pa., to Ohio in 1835, bringing his family in covered wagons, and settled in Richland County. Being a man of education and culture, and unaccustomed to manual labor, he taught school there until 1841. He then came to Hancock County, where in 1833, he had entered a tract of eighty acres in section 29, Allen Township, for himself, and eighty acres in Section 20 for his brother-in-law, Jacob Foust, who came to the county in 1838 and spent the remainder of his life here. On the evening of March 28, 1841, Paul Adams and family arrived at Van Buren, O., and soon after began preparations toward making a clearing on his land large enough to erect a cabin. The news became circulated in this section of the township of Mr. Adams' intention to build a cabin of hewn logs cut from standing timber, and when the appointed day arrived, there were enough neighborhood men on hand to cut and hew the timber, and they erected before sun-down a cabin which was 18 by 22 feet. Mr. Adams taught school here during the winter months for eight years, and in the summer devoted his time to clearing the land, which was wet and in need of draining, and placing it in a state of cultivation. Here his death occurred January 28, 1850, of typhoid fever. His widow subsequently married David Dorsey, now deceased, and her death occurred in Decem-

ber, 1891, at the advanced age of eighty-three years.

Mnason A. Adams was reared on his present farm and attended the district school of the township about four months each year, attending five terms while his father was the instructor. He was sixteen years of age at the time of his father's death, and being the eldest of the seven children living, a great many responsibilities fell to his lot. At that time there was considerable illness in the neighborhood, and often the whole family was down and scarcely able to wait upon one another.

Mr. Adams, like his father, was a teacher for a number of years and continued to teach during the winter seasons until he was twenty-nine years of age. In 1852 he taught school in a small round log house, in which the seats were made by splitting small trees and smoothing off one side, putting in wooden pegs for supports. The desks were arranged along the sides of the building and were made of two-inch boards with holes bored in and wooden pins driven through for foundations. He taught a month of twenty-six days and received fifty cents a day for his services and boarded himself. With a part of the first money so earned he purchased his first cook stove. When he moved on the place on which he lives it was one and one-half miles distant from any other house east or south. One family lived one and one-half miles west and there was one mile between him and the nearest house on the north. The land all around was forest and was owned by speculators.

Mr. Adams finished clearing the land, which he has thoroughly tiled and placed in a high state of cultivation, and has made all of the improvements on the farm, erecting a fine brick residence in 1884. He also purchased the tract of forty acres which his father had sold previous to his death, and also bought in small portions, the eighty-four-acre tract which his father had entered for Mr. Foust. Mr. Adams has always followed farming in a general way in connection with stock raising and is recognized as one of the most substantial and progressive farmers of the township. He is politically a Republican and served twenty-six years on the school board of the township, and as justice of the peace some time, although the township is strongly Democratic. He is a member, trustee, and steward of the Salem M. E. church in Cass Township.

In October, 1863, Mr. Adams married Cordelia Dorsey, his step-sister and a daughter of David Dorsey, and to them have been born nine children: Margaret, who is the wife of Jos. Wineland, who operates the home farm; Clara Arabella, who died in July, 1893, was the wife of George Gaylord; Sarah Anna; Viola Cordelia, who died aged six months; Samuel Mnason, who is a machinist, is employed by the Buckeye Traction Co. of Findlay; Paul David, who died in infancy; one son who was born dead; Nellie, who married Nelson Hiestand of Michigan, and May Adeline.

NICHOLAS ARRAS, who resides on his valuable farm of 203 acres, which lies in Section 31, Eagle Township, Hancock County, O., twelve miles southwest of Findlay, along the Redick road, was born on this farm, May 27, 1861, and is a son of John and Margaret (Essinger) Arras.

John Arras was born in Germany and was

brought to America by his parents when he was ten years old. His father, Peter Arras, was one of the early settlers of Marion County, O., locating about 1831 and later removing from there into Hancock County and acquiring land in Eagle Township on which he lived until his death. John Arras engaged in farming in Eagle Township and became a man of excellent standing in his neighborhood. He died in 1899. He married Margaret Essinger, who was also born in Germany, a daughter of Nicholas Essinger whom she accompanied to America in girlhood. Her father settled in Van Buren Township, Hancock County, O., and was engaged in farming and stock raising. Mrs. Arras died in 1894.

Nicholas Arras grew to manhood on the home farm and attended the district schools of Eagle Township. Since the farm came into his possession he has made many improvements, erecting a commodious and comfortable farm residence and substantial barns and granaries, much of the improving having been done within the last five years. This farm is said to be the best tiled one in the township. Mr. Arras is a progressive farmer and a very successful one, a partial explanation of this being that he uses only high grade seed. He raises considerable stock and makes a specialty of hogs, each year having many head ready for market.

Mr. Arras was married on September 10, 1885, to Miss Margaret Rauch, a daughter of Christian and Maria Rauch, the former of whom was born in Van Buren Township, Hancock County, and the latter in Germany. Mrs. Rauch was brought to America and Ohio when yet a girl and married in Van Buren Townshrip, Hancock County, where she and Mr. Rauch still reside on their farm. Mr. and Mrs. Arras have had four children: John C.; Adam W., who graduated from the Findlay Business College, with class honors, in 1908; Amanda L., who died in 1892, when one year old; and Eva Katie. Mr. Arras and his family are members of the German Lutheran church at Jenera, O. Mr. Arras is one of Eagle Township's representative men and has served three years as a member of the township school board.

ALVIN C. EWING, county recorder of Hancock County, O., now residing at Findlay, is a prominent citizen of this county and an influential member of the Democratic party. He was born in Liberty Township, Hancock County, O., November 26, 1854, and is a son of Cornelius S. and Elizabeth (Ensley) Ewing.

Alvin C. Ewing was reared on his father's farm and obtained his education in the country schools. At the age of twenty-one he came first to Findlay, where, for seven years he was a clerk in a general store, after which he returned to the farm and shortly afterward was appointed superintendent of the county infirmary, which office he retained for two years and then resumed farming. Later he embarked in the mercantile business at Mt. Cory and for six years served as mayor of that town. For ten years previous to assuming the duties of county recorder, on September 1, 1909, he resided on his farm in Union Township, where he also, at different times, filled the offices of township clerk and trustee.

Mr. Ewing married Miss Malissa A. King, who was born and reared in Hancock

Wanamaker

County and is a daughter of John King, Sr. They have one child, Maud May, who is the wife of George F. Guin. Mr. and Mrs. Guin have a daughter, Josephine. Mr. Ewing belongs to the fraternal orders of Knights of Pythias and the Maccabees, also is an associated member of the Grand Army of the Republic.

ELIPHES WANAMAKER, deceased, formerly president of the Independent Torpedo Company, an important business enterprise of Findlay, O., was numbered with the city's able business men and substantial citizens. He was born in 1849, in Westmoreland County, Pa., and died at Findlay, May 5, 1910. He was a son of Lewis and a grandson of Peter Wanamaker. The name of Wanamaker is one that has long been held in very high esteem in the United States, invariably representing, as it does, high standards of citizenship and business capacity above the ordinary. The original branch probably came from Holland but for generations it has grown and prospered in Pennsylvania and from there has scattered over the Union.

Eliphes Wanamaker grew to sixteen years on his father's farm and then learned the carpenter trade. He was more ambitious than some other members of the family, and was not afraid to venture out from home surroundings into the oil fields and try his fortune contesting with others gathered from every part of the country. He went to work as a tool dresser and from that became an oil well driller and in this capacity became a judge of property and subsequently a shrewd investor, going into the oil contracting business. Prior to 1885 he worked mainly in the Venango oil fields but in that year came to Hancock County, establishing his home at Findlay, where he resided for twenty-four years. During this time he became interested in numerous successful business enterprises, one of these being the Independent Torpedo Company. In politics he was a Democrat but never consented to hold political office, although he possessed many of the qualities so needful in a public official—judgment, foresight, courage and personal integrity. He belonged to both branches of the order of Odd Fellows, and also to the Knights of Pythias.

Mr. Wanamaker was married to Miss Vina C. Mainhart, of Johnstown, Pa., and they had one daughter, Verna, who married E. C. Edwards, of Leipsic. With his family he belonged to the Lutheran church. The comfortable family home is located at No. 903 South Main Street, Findlay.

ISAAC HART, who served as a member of the board of county commissioners of Hancock County, O., from 1901 until 1907, resides on his farm of 160 acres, situated in Section 27, Portage Township, and owns a second farm, of eighty acres, which lies in Section 16 in the same township. He was born on his father's farm located in the southwest corner of Section 27, Portage Township, June 13, 1845, and is a son of Abraham and Christianna (Linn) Hart.

Abraham Hart was born in Pennsylvania, followed farming all his life and died on the old Hart homestead in advanced age. He was married in Ashland County, O., to Christianna Linn, who was born in Maryland and died also on the old homestead in Portage Township.

Isaac Hart was reared on the home farm and attended the country schools and later spent several years alternating teaching in the

winter seasons and cultivating the farm in the summers. After marriage he located on this farm but subsequently removed to Findlay, where he resided for seven years, attending to other business interests, but moved back to the farm in March, 1909. For a number of years Mr. Hart has been selling a patent farm gate which has attracted much favorable notice through the agricultural districts wherever shown. Mr. Hart has exhibited the Chain Hinge Gate all over the state, making use of tests to prove its strength under strain and its general utility. He makes use of thirty-two of these gates on his own 240 acres and has disposed of 160 in Hancock County and a large number in Van Wert, Lucas, Wood and Logan Counties, farmers recognizing that it has superior points to anything of the kind ever before called to their attention. Mr. Hart does not personally cultivate his land, having a capable farmer in charge.

Mr. Hart was married to Miss Miriam Moorhead, who was born and reared on the present farm and died here in September, 1897. She was a daughter of John Moorhead, Sr. They had seven children, namely: William L., who is a farmer residing in Kansas; Laura, who is at home; Edgar J., who resides in Allen Township west of Van Buren; Mary Belle, who is the widow of Jacob Burman; Albert Marion, who died aged thirteen years; Dora C., who is the wife of William Poole, of Arkansas; and Harriet Blanche, who died aged four years. Mr. Hart is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church at Findlay and is one of its board of trustees. He is a Republican in his political views and has been more or less interested in public affairs ever since reaching manhood. During his long period of service as a county commissioner, he proved faithful to the interests involved and contributed to the efficiency of the board by his advice and good business judgment.

RICHARD M. FOREMAN, who resides on a well improved and highly cultivated farm of eighty acres, which is located in Section 9, Eagle Township, Hancock County, O., was born on his present farm August 15, 1866, and is a son of John F. and Mary (Yates) Foreman.

John F. Foreman was a native of Pennsylvania and engaged in agricultural pursuits on the farm now owned by our subject, his death occurring there January 14, 1908. His wife was born and reared in Eagle Township, Hancock County, O., her parents having been prominent farmers of the county. She also died on this farm, January 11, 1898.

Richard M. Foreman was reared and has always lived on the farm where he now resides, and his educational training was obtained in the local schools. Mr. Foreman has always followed farming, and his land is well tiled and ditched, has good substantial buildings, and is up-to-date in every respect.

On January 26, 1909, Mr. Foreman was married to Alta Fenestmaker, a daughter of William and Sarah Ann Fenestmaker, who were prominent farmers of Eagle Township, Hancock County. Mr. Fenestmaker died on his farm in this township, in 1885, and was survived by his widow until 1898. The following children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Foreman: Ethel, Ralph, Lena, Gertrude and Ray.

WILLIAM D. McCAUGHEY, secretary and treasurer of the Buckeye Traction Ditcher Company, which is the largest independent

concern at Findlay, O., is a native of Hancock County and was born in a log cabin on a farm, in Allen Township, June 26, 1846, and is a son of John W. and Eliza (Alban) McCaughey.

John W. McCaughey was born in Stark County, O., amid pioneer surroundings, and was a son of John McCaughey who was born in Londonderry, Ireland. He married Eliza Alban, who was also born in Stark County and was a daughter of Capt. William Alban, who served in the War of 1812, under General Hull. John W. McCaughey and wife moved to Hancock County in 1842.

William McCaughey was reared on what was then a back-woods farm and his educational advantages were limited. He remained a farmer until he was thirty-two years of age and then came to Findlay, where, for a number of years he was entrusted with interests connected with the administration of estates and receivership duties. During 1887 he served as a member of the school board; from 1890 until 1900 he was a member of the board of equalization, in the latter year being president of this body, and from May, 1904, until January 1, 1907, he was a member of the board of public service, elected to the same on the Republican ticket. In 1891 he was appointed gas trustee of Findlay. Thus Mr. McCaughey was well known to the business men, financiers and public officials of Findlay before he identified himself with his present enterprise and it must be acknowledged that his name added great stability to it.

The Buckeye Traction Ditcher Company came to Findlay under the name of Van Buren, Heck & Marvin, in February, 1903, and Mr. McCaughey took charge on January 1, 1905. At that time the business was in what is termed bad shape and already a petition of the creditors of the company had been filed asking that a receiver be appointed, but when it was learned that Mr. McCaughey had been placed in charge, this petition was recalled. The panic of 1907 affected this concern as it did so many others, but there came no suspension either of work or the payment of wages, Mr. McCaughey and the president of the company, Dr. N. M. McLachlin, attending to these matters personally. The present board of officers is as follows: Dr. N. M. McLachlin, president; Collin D. Hayward, vice-president; William D. McCaughey, secretary and treasurer; and C. S. Brown, superintendent of manufacture. Employment is afforded 165 men which will shortly be increased to more than 300 when contemplated improvements are completed.

In 1870, Mr. McCaughey was married to Miss Harriet Miller, a daughter of William Miller, of Hancock County. Mrs. McCaughey was born at Lockport, N. Y., but came to Seneca County when three years of age, and to Hancock County when fifteen years old.

GEORGE F. HAMMOND, a progressive and successful farmer and stock raiser of Union Township, owning 118 acres of valuable land situated in Section 6, has been a resident of Hancock County for fifty-eight years. He was born in Carroll County, O., September 19, 1838, and is a son of George and Anna Hammond.

George Hammond was born in Virginia and was taken to Carroll County, O., by his parents and later was married there to Anna Kinney, who died in 1863. She was a native of Maryland. The death of George Hammond occurred in Adams County, Ind., where he had

spent the closing years of his life. He was a cooper by trade.

George F. Hammond was reared in Carroll County and obtained his education in the country schools. When Civil War was declared, he was one of the first to enlist for service in the Union army, at Findlay, O., on August 25, 1861, becoming a member of the 21st O. Vol. Inf. He took part in a number of the most important battles of the war, including Stone River, Chickamauga, Missionary Ridge and Atlanta, was with Sherman in his great march to the sea and saw hardship of every kind but survived it all and was mustered out at Louisville, Ky., and received his honorable discharge at Columbus, O., July 25, 1865. He then returned to peaceful pursuits and settled in Union Township, Hancock County. He has a valuable property which is well improved and well tiled. While he raises no registered stock he has an abundance of the ordinary variety and finds stock raising one of his most profitable industries.

On October 28, 1858, Mr. Hammond was married to Miss Elizabeth Seitz, who died July 31, 1892, at the age of sixty years. She was born and reared in Blanchard Township, Hancock County, where her parents, Samuel and Martha Seitz were farming people. Six children were born to this union: Jane, Sherman, Alfred, Emma, Amanda and George. Jane married Samuel Peterson, of Union Township and they have the following children: William, Dora, Pearl, Everett, Molly, Mary, Hazel, Bessie, Glenn and Roy. Sherman married Adelia Burkholter of Putnam County, and they have two children: Martin and Wilbur. Alfred married a Miss Perkins, of Union Township and they have seven children: Francis, Velma, John, Leona, Harry, Howard and Bertha. Emma married a Mr. Zucker, of Columbus Grove, and they have two children: Merl and Delmar. George married Lucy Cyrus, of Putnam County, and they have two children: Ray and Oliver. Amanda died in August, 1903, at the age of twenty-nine years. Mr. Hammond has twenty-three grandchildren and he has reason to be proud of his descendants and they often gather at the old farm to gladden him with their tokens of respect and affection.

JOHN S. BEAGLE, township trustee of Orange Township, Hancock County, O., and a leading farmer of this section, owns 192 acres of valuable land which lies in Section 1. He was born in Jackson Township, Hancock County, January 31, 1853, and is a son of Alva and Martha (Fox) Beagle.

Alva Beagle was born in Muskingum County, O., and came to Hancock County in 1852, and in the same year was married to Martha Fox, a daughter of Samuel Fox, who was a native of Pennsylvania. Five children were born to this marriage, namely: John S., Anna, William Edwin, Martin and Sadie I. Alva Beagle and wife had settled in Jackson Township where he secured eighty acres of land and cleared the larger part of it himself. All the children were born there. He and wife were members of the German Baptist church in which he took much interest and contributed to building the present edifice.

John S. Beagle attended school in Jackson Township and helped his father on the farm where he lived until his own marriage, when he came to his present place in Orange Township. This land had all been cleared, but few improvements had been made and Mr. Beagle erected the fine buildings now standing. He has shown much enterprise in carrying on his

agricultural work and is numbered with the substantial and successful men of this section.

In 1880, Mr. Beagle was married to Miss Lyda D. Marshall, a daughter of William Marshall, of Orange Township, and they have nine children, all of whom are at home except the eldest son, William, who married Luella Crowell, of Union Township, and they have a daughter, Catherine D. The other members of the family are: H. C., Mattie, Nellie, Myrtle, Marshall, Rhoda, Samuel and Helen. Mr. Beagle and family attend the Evangelical church. He is a Republican in politics, and is serving in his second term as township trustee.

JOHN E. BETTS, a representative citizen of Findlay, O., a member of the city council, representing the First Ward, is the junior member of the law firm of Axline & Betts, one which is entrusted with a large amount of the important litigation of city and county. Mr. Betts was born on a farm in Wood County, O., November 3, 1863, and is a son of Edward C. and Elizabeth (Walters) Betts.

Mr. Betts is of pioneer ancestry and Revolutionary stock. His great-grandfather was Capt. Hezekiah Betts, who entered the Continental army when a mere boy and gained promotion under Major Willis and General Webb and was captain of his company, although not yet quite twenty-one years of age, at the surrender of General Cornwallis, and the subject of this sketch has in his possession the commission issued by Oliver Wolcott, then governor of Connecticut.

He was born in Connecticut, July 31, 1760, and died May 31, 1837, at Norwalk, Conn.

Dr. Alfred Hanford Betts, son of Captain Hezekiah and grandfather of John E. Betts, was born at Norwalk, Conn., September 2, 1786, and came to the Western Reserve about 1815-16. He was a scholarly man and was one of the founders of the Western Reserve University which was established first at Hudson, O., but is now one of the great educational centers at Cleveland, and assisted in establishing Oberlin College. He was one of the early medical practitioners and appears to have been a man of more than ordinary capacity in many ways.

Edward C. Betts, father of John E. Betts, was about three years old when his father came to the Western Reserve. In 1836 he engaged in teaching school in Defiance County, O., but later acquired land in Wood County, and there engaged in agricultural pursuits for a number of years. After his son, John E. Betts, had become well established at Findlay, with his wife he came to this city and here his death occurred on October 6, 1908, being then in his ninety-sixth year. His venerable widow yet survives and is still a resident of Findlay.

John E. Betts was reared on his father's farm in Wood County and attended the country schools until he was sixteen years of age, when he accepted a position in a village general store, with the understanding that he should receive a yearly salary of $50, with board and washing. After nine months, however, Mr. Betts had changed his mind about being a merchant and withdrew from the contract and on being paid what was owing to him, made other plans for the future. These included a better educational training and after a short period in a school in Michigan, he entered the Wesleyan University, at Delaware, O. In 1889, Mr. Betts came to Findlay and entered the law office of his uncle, the late Judge Jacob F. Burkett, who was formerly Supreme Justice of Ohio. Mr. Betts was admitted to the Ohio bar

in 1890 and in 1900 became associated in the practice of law, with J. Frank Axline, under the firm style of Axline & Betts. The business of the firm covers all branches of general practice and their suite of four well appointed offices are at No. 65-66, in the Adams Block, Findlay.

Mr. Betts was married in 1902, to Miss Elizabeth F. Fisher, a daughter of A. J. and Martha E. (Hart) Fisher, of Findlay, O. The father of Mrs. Betts was born in Cass Township, Hancock County, O., February 19, 1849, a son of John and Katherine A. (Dunlop) Fisher, both natives of Lancaster County, Pa. They came to Hancock County in 1835 and settled on a partly cleared farm in Cass Township. A. J. Fisher was educated in the schools at Findlay and for fifteen winters taught school while engaging in farming during the summers. His first school was in Washington Township. He became a man of consequence in Hancock County, on many occasions served with efficiency in township offices. In 1872 he married Martha E. Hart, a daughter of Cyrus and Elizabeth Hart, who were pioneers in Hancock County. Mrs. Fisher died November 1, 1902. Mr. Fisher was early interested in the oil industry in this section and was president of the oil company that opened the first field north of Findlay.

Mr. and Mrs. Betts have one son, Jackson E. Betts. With his family Mr. Betts belongs to the Episcopal church. He has been an active and interested citizen ever since making Findlay his home. He has been interested in many business and manufacturing concerns, and his name appears in the directorate of many of Findlay's important enterprises. He is identified with the Knights of Pythias and with the Sons of the American Revolution.

CHESTER L. GREEN, general farmer and stock raiser, residing on his well kept farm of eighty-five acres, situated in Section 7, Union Township, Hancock County, O., lying on the Ridge road, five and one-half miles northwest of Mt. Cory, O., was born in this township, July 10, 1858. He is a son of William and Rachel (Weünger) Green.

William Green was born in Pennsylvania and was a son of William Green who was one of the pioneers in Hancock County and died in Union Township. His son, William Green, was then a young man and he still lives on the old home farm. His wife died in 1866.

Chester L. Green was eight years old when he lost his mother. He grew up at home and attended school and later taught school for fourteen terms in Putnam County. Mr. Green has made farming and stock raising, however, his main business and has prospered far beyond the average. His well kept buildings and carefully cultivated fields indicate that he takes pride and pleasure in his work and that success should reward him is not merely a matter of chance. Within the past seven years he has greatly improved his place, rebuilding his house and barn and tiling the land. These improvements have been costly but they have made his property much more valuable.

On October 25, 1883, Mr. Green was married to Miss Emma Crow, of Putnam County, O., a daughter of William R. and Bersheba (Brower) Crow, the former of whom was a substantial farmer. He died in Putnam County in 1892, aged seventy-one years and was survived but two years by his widow, who was aged seventy-four years.

Mrs. Green was educated in Putnam County and taught one term of school there. To Mr. and Mrs. Green seven children were born: Atlee C., Clare R., William Everett, Joycie G., Leslie C., Milford V. and Jessie, all of whom survive except Jessie, who died when nine days old. Atlee C., the eldest, attended the High School at Mt. Cory, O., where he was graduated in 1903 and taught two terms in the district schools of Hancock County. Clare R. was graduated from the Pandora High School in 1907, following which he taught school in District No. 5, Liberty Township, Putnam County, and in 1909 the grammar school at Benton Ridge, O., and in the summer of 1910 was superintendent of the High School at Depont, O., also attending Otterbein College at Westerville. He is a very close student and seemingly has a bright future ahead of him in the educational field. The third son, William Everett, graduated from the Pandora High School in 1910 and is employed to teach in Putnam County. Mr. and Mrs. Green are giving their children every advantage in their power. They are members of the United Brethren church at Pleasant View where Mr. Green has been superintendent of the Sunday-school for nine years.

PETER RAUSCH, who is engaged in general farming on a tract of 100 acres in Orange Township, Hancock County, O., was born June 13, 1846, in Germany, and is a son of John and Barbara Rausch, both of whom always lived in Germany. The mother died when our subject was but eleven years of age.

Peter Rausch was reared and obtained his education in his native country, and at the age of twenty-two years came to America, landing in New York City after a voyage of thirteen days. He then came to Findlay, O., and soon purchased a tract of sixty acres in Eagle Township. This land had originally been entered from the Government by the former owner, and about thirty acres of it had been cleared when Mr. Rausch made his purchase. He subsequently sold this farm, and purchased his present farm of 100 acres in Section 1, Orange Township, and here carries on farming in a general way. About five acres of the farm are yet in timber, but Mr. Rausch has done considerable draining and otherwise improved the land, including the building of nearly all of the fences on the place.

Mr. Rausch was married about one week after landing in America, his wife, who was Susanna Krichbaum, having come to this country on the same vessel. Of their union were born the following children: Peter, Philip, Katie, William, John, George, Jacob, and Charles. John died at the age of seven years.

Mr. Rausch has been a resident of Hancock County for thirty years, and is one of the representative and public spirited citizens of Orange Township. Politically he is an Independent Democrat, but has never sought office for himself. He is a charter member of the German Lutheran church of which he is secretary.

J. E. BICKNELL, who is engaged in the production of oil in Hancock County, O., has been a resident of Findlay since 1889, and was born September 10, 1863, in Morrisville, Madison County, N. Y., a son of J. Bennett and Hannah W. (Wagner) Bick-

nell. J. Bennett Bicknell was a merchant during his early life, but after removing with his family to Cleveland, O., in 1879, he engaged in paper manufacturing with the Cleveland Paper Company. He died in Cleveland in 1899, and is survived by his widow.

J. E. Bicknell was about sixteen years old when his parents removed to Cleveland, and after attending the High School there one year, began working in the Valley Paper Mill, of which his father was manager, and two years later entered the employ of the Meriam and Morgan Paraffine Company, with whom he continued six years, and who were the pioneers of the paraffine business. In 1886 he went to Oil City, Pa., where he became manager of the Keystone Refinery and in 1889 came to Findlay as superintendent of the Peerless Refining Company, with which concern he was identified seven years. Since that time he has been engaged in the production of oil in Indiana, Illinois, Kansas and Hancock County, O., and devotes the greater part of his time to this business. He was appointed the receiver for the Findlay Ax & Tool Company.

Mr. Bicknell was married in 1890 to Ida Grove, who is a native of Belmont County, O., and they have one daughter, Helen G. Bicknell. He is affiliated with the Elks, the Maccabees and the Masons.

JOSEPH PUGH, who resides on his valuable farm of eighty acres, which is situated in Section 35, Madison Township, Hancock County, O., was born in Van Buren Township, Hancock County, April 30, 1843, and is a son of John W. and Sarah Pugh.

The parents of Mr. Pugh were early settlers in Hancock County. His father entered 160 acres in Van Buren Township, one mile west of Mr. Pugh's present farm, and there carried on agricultural pursuits until the close of his life. He was a man of some consequence in his township and served some eight years as a justice of the peace.

Joseph Pugh was reared in Van Buren Township and obtained his schooling there. From youth he has been engaged in farming, locating on this place after his marriage. He devotes his land to general agriculture, grain growing and stock raising, and is numbered with the prosperous and successful farmers of Madison Township although in late years he has practically resigned the management of his farm to his son, John W. Pugh.

Joseph Pugh was married in 1865 to Miss Martha Johnson, a lady who was born in Van Wert County, and they have had three children: Zenobia, who is the wife of John Steinman of Van Buren Township, and they have eight children—Della, Bertha, Marie, Cloyd, Ivin, Franklin, Howard and Raymond; John W., who was born and reared and attended school in Madison Township and now is manager of his father's farm, married Mattie Chestnut, of Hardin County, O., and they have three children—Cuma, Emma and Wilbert; and Arlando, who died in infancy. Mr. Pugh has always been one of the responsible men of his township since locating here and for fourteen years served as a member of the school board in District No. 6, Madison Township. J. W. Pugh is identified with the order of Maccabees and attends Lodge No. 471 at Williamstown

RESIDENCE OF P. P. SWINEHART, BLANCHARD TOWNSHIP

JOHN D. RENSHLER, funeral director and embalmer, has been established in this business at Findlay, O., since 1895. He was born on a farm east of Findlay, near the Van Horn Cemetery, in Amanda Township, Hancock County, May 6, 1871, and is a son of Levi W. and Mary J. (Harrison) Renshler. The father of Mr. Renshler moved from Pennsylvania to Ohio.

John D. Renshler attended the local schools and when he embarked in the undertaking business, with J. Clark Bright, of McComb, he was entirely without capital. He was associated with Mr. Bright at McComb for about six years and is still interested there although residing at Findlay, and is also a member of the firm of Renshler & Deeds, at Rawson, O. Mr. Renshler is also proprietor and manager of the Twentieth Century Couch Manufacturing Company, which manufactures couches, caskets and davenports, together with a general line of funeral furnishings, making a specialty of a davenport which he has patented, as he has also a casket with an old iron finish. They also manufacture the Landon Patent Cement Grave Vault. This factory has been in operation since 1906. Mr. Renshler is a graduate of the Massachusetts College of Embalming at Boston, Mass., of the class of 1894. He is a member of the Guaranteed Undertakers' Cooperative Syndicate and Exchange List Company, of Philadelphia. He has well appointed quarters and keeps a full line of all paraphernalia pertaining to the necessities or demands of his business.

Mr. Renshler married Miss Harriet R. Lanck, of Findlay, a daughter of Michael Lanck, and they have two children: Nellie and Clarence J. With his family he is a member of the Central Church of Christ. He belongs to the Elks, Odd Fellows, Maccabees, Tribe of Ben Hur, Modern Woodmen, Red Men and the Home Guards.

P. P. SWINEHART, a retired farmer of Blanchard Township, where he owns 227 acres of valuable land and is one of the highly respected citizens, was born in Hopewell Township, Perry County, O., July 23, 1848, and is a son of Andrew and Lydia Ann (Stimmel) Swinehart.

Andrew Swinehart was born also in Perry County and was a son of John Swinehart, who was a native of Pennsylvania, and came from there to Perry County, O. John married in Pennsylvania, Christiana Gruber and they had a family of twelve children, which was not an unusual one in those days. He was a soldier in the War of 1812, and escaped all injury in the service. He and his wife died in Perry County. Andrew Swinehart learned the plasterer's trade and he was also a farmer, purchasing forty acres of land in Wood County, of his brother, Daniel Swinehart, and on that farm he died in October, 1897, and was buried in the Weaver Cemetery, Wood County. His widow remains on the homestead. They attended the Lutheran church. Andrew married Lydia Ann Stimmel, a daughter of Peter Stimmel, of Perry County, but a native of Maryland. Andrew Swinehart and wife became the parents of twelve children, eight of whom survive. Of these, the subject of this sketch and one of his sisters are the only ones to make their home in Hancock County.

P. P. Swinehart attended school until he was about sixteen years of age in Perry County, with the exception of one term in Wood County. From his boyhood he helped his father, he being a renter, and followed his

trade in Perry County and afterwards in Wood County, remaining at home until he was twenty-seven years of age. In 1865 he moved to Wood County and helped to clear the farm. After his marriage he settled on his own farm in Wood County, on which he remained for over fifteen years. He then moved to another farm in Wood County and lived there seven years. Subsequently coming to Hancock County, he settled, in September, 1908, on his present farm. The property required but little improving, as the land and buildings were in good condition. While active he carried on farming along general lines, all his land being tillable except twenty acres, which is yet in timber.

In 1875 Mr. Swinehart was married in Wood County to Eva Staley, who at that time was a widow. They had five children, namely: Oliver Allen, an infant (daughter); Charles H., another infant daughter, and Mathias Burton. Mrs. Eva Swinehart died May 6, 1897, and her burial was at Fostoria. Two of the sons, when aged respectively five and seven years, gave their father a terrible fright and aroused the whole city of Findlay. The little lads started to get the cows (which pastured in forty acres of fenced woodland) and became lost, and before their distracted father found them, they had wandered thirty-five miles. Practically the whole city of Findlay, aroused by pealing bells, joined in the search, which happily proved successful after an all-day hunt.

Mr. Swinehart married for his second wife, Miss Sarah Diebert, a daughter of Solomon Diebert, of Lehigh County, Pa., and they had one child, Claude Arthur. This wife died in November, 1901, and was buried in the Weaver Cemetery, in Wood County. On June 19, 1904, Mr. Swinehart was united in marriage with his present wife, who was formerly Miss Mary M. Merryman, a daughter of Fred Merryman, of Marion, Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Swinehart are members of the North Baltimore Lutheran church, being charter members of the same. The former casts his vote independently, not being a strict party man.

JOHN BAME, who is one of the representative German-American citizens of Orange Township, Hancock County, O., owns an excellent and carefully improved farm of eighty acres. He was born in Germany, November 5, 1857, and was twenty years of age when he came to America, making the voyage on a vessel that required two weeks to cross the Atlantic Ocean.

Mr. Bame had attended school in his native land and had a good German education. He landed at the port of New York and from there came to Hancock County, O., and secured farm work in Van Buren Township and attended two terms of school there. He worked by the month and by the year as a farmer until after his marriage. In 1897 he bought his present farm from Jacob Heldman. He immediately began to improve his property, completing the draining of the land and rebuilding his farm residence and putting all the different structures in good shape. He devotes himself to general farming, especially grain growing and each year also turns out some fine cattle.

Mr. Bame was married in Van Buren Township to Miss Barbara Beach, a daughter of John Beach and they have three children: Mena, Henry and Harvey. Mr. and Mrs. Bame are members of the Lutheran church. He is an independent voter, making his own estimate of the men who desire office and casting

his ballot according to his judgment. Mr. Bame has very sensible, practical ideas on general subjects and enjoys the respect of his fellow citizens.

DANIEL E. CHILD, manager of the Hancock Brick and Tile Company, and also manager of the Buckeye Tile Company, at Findlay, O., is one of the representative business men of this city. He was born on a farm in Lorain County, O., June 7, 1843, and is a son of Abijah and Cordelia (Ennis) Child, the former of whom is deceased but the latter survives, being now over eighty-six years of age.

After leaving the country schools, Daniel E. Child attended Oberlin College and for seven years afterward taught graded schools, during the last two years being engaged in the Union Christian College, at Merom, Ind. In 1869 he located at Dayton, embarking in the sewing machine business and from that became a manufacturer of organs and was engaged in the music business in that city until 1887, when he came to Findlay. In 1888, with Mr. Dorney and Mr. Murray, he entered into the business of brick manufacturing and in 1891 he purchased Mr. Dorney's interest, the firm name having been Dorney, Child & Murray. The old factory was near the present plant of the Hancock Brick and Tile Company. In September, 1892, a fire destroyed the old plant and at the time of this disaster, Mr. Murray was caught by the falling walls and lost his life. In the winter of 1892-3, Mr. Child bought the interest of Mr. Murray's heirs, rebuilt the plant and continued until 1903, at which time he purchased the Dorney and Harris plant. This plant had burned two years previously but Mr. Child rebuilt and in March, 1903, the Hancock Brick and Tile Company was organized, the old site of Dorney and Harris being occupied. This plant lies along the T. & O. C. Railroad in the southern part of Findlay, but the offices are in the Buckeye National Bank Building. Employment is given sixty men at this plant and the foreman is D. Earl Child, who is also vice-president of the company.

D. E. Child and Sons also hold a controlling interest in the Buckeye Tile Company, of which D. Earl Child is president and his father, Daniel E. Child, is manager. The Buckeye Tile Company operates three separate factories—one being located at Pemberville, Wood County, O., another at Trowbridge, in Ottawa County, and the third at Curtice, also in Ottawa County and in each of these plants ten men are employed. They are under the supervision of Daniel E. Child and his sons: D. Earl, Leo, and Roy B. Child. The secretary of this company is George E. Harper, of Ada, O. The output is exclusively farmers' drain tile which is shipped to agents in different parts of the country.

Mr. Child has been prominent in the brick and tile industry for twenty-two years but his interests are not confined to this line. In 1887 he entered into the dairy business and in 1900 organized the Findlay Dairy Company, of which he was president until 1908, when he sold. He owns the old Stopher farm of 180 acres, which lies in Marion Township and adjoins Findlay and for twenty years operated a dairy business from that farm. Although formerly and at present interested at North Baltimore, O., Mr. Child never resided there, having maintained his home at Findlay ever since coming to this city in 1887. He organized the North Baltimore Pressed Brick plant and owned a large amount of land there, one tract of sixty acres which he laid out still being

known as the Child's addition to North Baltimore. Mr. Child is a man of great business ability and with few exceptions his undertakings have proved successful.

Mr. Child married Mrs. Minnie J. Richardson, of Pittsburg, Pa., and they have three sons, all unmarried, and two of whom are associated with their father in his business enterprises. Mr. Child is one of the active members and liberal supporters of the Baptist church at Findlay.

Mr. Child has been since 1893 an active member of the Symposium, the oldest literary society in the city. He has been an active supporter of reform in politics, but not a strong partisan.

W. A. WILLIAMSON, who is one of the largest breeders and dealers in full blooded stock in Hancock County, O., owns 160 acres of fine farm land, eighty of which is situated in Section 34, Union Township, which has been his home since he was twenty-one years of age, while the other eighty acres are located in Section 3, Orange Township. He was born in Orange Township, Hancock County, O., February 19, 1854, and is a son of W. M. and Jane (McCrosky) Williamson.

W. M. Williamson was a well known farmer and man of influence in Orange Township, where he lived for forty-four years. He was born in Greene County, O., came to Orange Township in Hancock County, in 1850, and died at Mt. Cory in 1894, at the age of eighty-four years. His widow survived him but a short time.

W. A. Williamson obtained his education in the schools of Orange Township and lived at home until his marriage, in 1880, when he came to the present farm. Here he has done a large amount of improving and during the past twelve years has erected his new frame house and barn and has completed the tiling of his land. While he carries on general farming he also gives much attention to stock and his reputation for high grade stock of all kinds has extended all through this section of Ohio. He has other business interests, being one of the directors of the Mt. Cory Elevator and Exchange Company, at Mt. Cory, and is president of the Farmers' Mutual Telephone Company, of Hancock County. He has taken an active part in township affairs, has served as assessor six different times, for seven years was a member of the school board and now is land appraiser.

Mr. Williamson was married October 14, 1880, to Miss Jane Hamilton, of Fairfield County, O., and they have two children: James M. and Ruth Ethel. Mr. Williamson and family are members of the United Presbyterian church of Cannonsburg, in which he is an elder.

WILLIAM F. HOSLER, cashier of the City Banking Company, at Findlay, O., of which he was one of the organizers, was born on a farm in Washington Township, Hancock County, O., February 1, 1862, and is a son of Peter and Susan (Sherman) Hosler.

Peter Hosler was born in Pennsylvania and was only a child when his parents moved to Stark County, O., where he was reared a farmer, but later became a carpenter and contractor. He was married at Canton, O., and immediately afterward moved to Tiffin and shortly afterward to Hancock County,

and to Findlay in 1875, when he was elected county treasurer. He was a man of ample fortune, good business perception and public spirit. In 1890 he built the business block in which the City Banking Company has quarters, and he was one of the organizers of this financial institution and its first president. He died in 1897.

William F. Hosler was educated in the country schools and at Findlay, where he attended the High School and after his father became county treasurer he served one year as a clerk in his office and from there entered into the banking business in the Farmers' Bank, as teller. The City Banking Company began business as a private bank on May 1, 1887, and was reorganized as a state bank in 1897. The original organizers were: Peter Hosler, William F. Hosler, Morgan D. Shafer, P. B. Morrison and David and Morris Hosler, brothers of William F. The first president as stated, was Peter Hosler, and the first president after reorganization, was Morgan D. Shafer. All have passed away with the exception of the sons of Peter Hosler. The bank was moved to its present location in 1890. Its present officers are: D. H. Hiestand, of Findlay, president; Charles E. Jordan, vice-president; and William F. Hosler, cashier. The board of directors is made up of the following capitalists: D. H. Hiestand, Charles E. Jordan, William F. Hosler, Morris Hosler and Elmer Y. Sphar, all Findlay men. Mr. Hosler has been cashier ever since 1887, when the bank was organized.

Mr. Hosler married Miss Helen M. Shafer, a daughter of Morgan D. Shafer, now deceased, who was a leading attorney of this city, and they have one child, Mary Louise. Mr. Hosler has additional interests. He is a director of the Buckeye Traction Ditcher Company; is secretary and treasurer of the Findlay Courier Company, and is a director also in the Findlay Table Manufacturing Company. He has been affiliated with the Odd Fellows since he was twenty-one years of age and is a charter member of Lodge No. 75, Elks.

GEORGE H. WERTENBERGER, who, for the past twelve years has been engaged in the furniture business at Arlington, Hancock County, O., was born April 28, 1876, in Madison Township, Hancock County, O., and is a son of John Wertenberger.

John Wertenberger was born in Germany and in 1859, at the age of eleven years, came to this country with his father, George Wertenberger, who settled on land just south of Arlington in Madison Township. The father of our subject is still living, a resident of Arlington, but the mother died in 1898 on the home farm just south of Arlington.

George H. Wertenberger was reared on the home farm in Madison Township and attended the district schools of his home locality. Since 1898 he has been engaged in the furniture business, and also carries a general line of other goods, including glassware, silverware, rugs, carpets, sewing machines and jewelry.

In 1898, Mr. Wertenberger was joined in marriage with Miss Lizzie R. Rettig, who is a daughter of Peter and Eva Rettig, well known farmers of Madison Township. Mrs. Rettig died on the home farm in Madison Township in 1908, but Mr. Rettig survives and resides on the farm. Mr. and Mrs. Wertenberger began housekeeping in Ar-

lington. They have one child: Marvin E. They are both members of the Lutheran church of Arlington, in which Mr. Wertenberger is superintendent of the Sunday-school.

SAMUEL S. STOVER, deputy probate judge of Hancock County, O., and one of the representative citizens of Findlay, was born October 5, 1885, on a farm in Amanda Township, Hancock County, and is a son of John L. and Emma J. (Snyder) Stover. They had three children: Jessie M., Samuel S. and Morris L. John L. Stover died on a farm in Allen Township, Hancock County, April 29, 1892, but is survived by his widow.

Samuel S. Stover was reared on the farm and attended the district schools of the township and the public schools of Findlay, after which he spent twelve years working in the oil fields. In February, 1909, he assumed the duties of deputy probate judge, receiving the appointment from Probate Judge Dorsey.

Mr. Stover was united in marriage with Laura B. Reimand, who is a daughter of Philip Reimand. Fraternally he is a member of the Odd Fellows and the Knights of Pythias.

RICHARD N. LEE, M. D., one of the leading physicians and surgeons of the southwest part of Hancock County, O., is a prominent citizen of Mt. Blanchard, of which place he has been a resident for twelve years. He was born in Jackson Township, this county, and is a son of Noah and Mary (Sampson) Lee.

Noah Lee was born in Amanda Township, Hancock County, O., August 15, 1845, a son of Richard and Lydia (Wyant) Lee, both of whom were natives of Fairfield County, Ohio. Richard Lee came to Hancock County in 1830 and entered a tract of land from the Government, on which he settled in the following spring. He died in 1856 at the age of forty-eight years. Of his eleven children, his son Noah was the youngest. He married Mary Sampson, a daughter of Nicholas and Eliza Sampson. The Sampsons lived on a farm adjoining that of the Lees, and at the time of marriage, Mary Sampson was twenty years of age. After his marriage Noah Lee rented the Houck farm, near Houckstown, and after living thereon for some seven years he purchased it, thereby becoming the owner of 146 acres of land. To this he added from time to time until he now owns 260 acres of some of the best farm land in Hancock County. His wife died on the homestead on August 20, 1881. She had been the mother of seven children.

Richard N. Lee, who was the third child of his parents in order of birth, was reared in Jackson Township and attended the common and high schools of Arcadia. During the years 1892-3-4 he taught school. In 1895 he began the study of medicine, reading under two of the leading physicians of Findlay. From under their instruction he entered Starling Medical College at Columbus, where he was graduated in 1898, and in May of that year he established himself in practice at Mt. Blanchard. Dr. Lee also attended school at the New York Post-Graduate School and Hospital in 1907. He has been very successful in general practice, and there have been special occasions when he restored to health patients for whom there seemed to be little hope. He has thus won public confidence in his professional capacity and is personally esteemed and held in

high regard as a useful and progressive citizen.

On June 15, 1898, Dr. Lee was married to Miss Sylvia Marquett, who was born in Madison Township, Hancock County, Ohio. They have two children, Ruth M. and Robert J. Dr. Lee and family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church at Mt. Blanchard. He has been active in public affairs and in 1899 consented to become a member of the town council. He is identified fraternally with the Modern Woodmen, the Odd Fellows and the Knights of Pythias, being a Past Grand of the Odd Fellows.

WILLIAM R. RUMMELL*, proprietor of the flourishing furniture, stove and upholstery business located at Nos. 116-118 East Sandusky Street, Findlay, is one of the representative business men of the city. He was born at Findlay, Ohio, September 2, 1860, a son of David and Mary (Reed) Rummell, and he is a grandson of Jacob Rummell, who was born in Germany, in 1792, who was the first of this branch of the family to come to America. Grandfather Rummell was an early settler in Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, and followed his trade of brick mason and contractor for many years, dying in Findlay, in 1879. He was respected as a good and useful citizen by all who knew him.

David Rummell, son of Jacob and father of William R. Rummell, was born in Columbiana County, O., in the year 1830. He followed the occupations of chairmaker and brick mason. In 1848 he came to Hancock County and continued to work at his combined trades until 1875, when he established himself in the furniture business at Findlay. He proved a successful business man, his enterprise combined with honorable methods bringing their reward in a comfortable degree of prosperity that ranked him among the well-to-do citizens of the town. He took an interest in public affairs and was a man highly respected in the community, serving for a number of years as a member of the city council and also on the board of education. He was married in 1851 to Mary Reed, who was a daughter of William Reed, of Leetonia, Columbiana County. Their family numbered four children, namely: Ellen M., Jesse B., William R. and George B.

William R. Rummell received his educational training in the public schools of Findlay. He began his industrial career at the age of fifteen, becoming clerk in his father's furniture store. During the years that followed he familiarized himself thoroughly with every detail of the business, and in 1888, thirteen years after his industrial initiation, was admitted to partnership, at which time the firm name of D. Rummell & Son was adopted. The elder Rummell died in 1897, since which time, William R. Rummell has continued the business alone, having considerably increased its size and prestige. The store, equipped with a large and select line of furniture, stoves, etc., is now one of the most popular business establishments of the city, and every year sees the business increase, as the result of the straight-forward, honorable, methods adopted years ago by the father and since continued by the son.

Mr. Rummell is identified fraternally with the Odd Fellows, Elks, Knights of Pythias, and the Junior Order of United American Mechanics. In politics he pays allegiance to the Republican party, while religiously he belongs to the Methodist Episcopal church.

In Allegan County, Michigan, in 1882, Mr. Rummell was married to Miss Nancy E. Bowman, who died March 8, 1908. Her father was

William Bowman. She is survived by three children: Karl R., Maud B. and Mary C. The family home is at No. 409 E. Lincoln Street, Findlay.

JOSEPH WORST, who owns 160 acres of some of the finest farm land to be found in Madison Township, has lived on this place for sixty-two years and is one of the best known and most respected citizens of this section. He was born in Stark County, O., March 16, 1848, and is a son of Israel and Anna (Maner) Worst.

The parents of Mr. Worst were born in Germany and after they married they came to America and settled in Stark County, O., and from there came to Hancock County in 1849. Here they entered forty acres of land in Madison Township and the father developed a good farm on which he lived until his death, which occurred in 1890. The mother survived but one year longer.

Joseph Worst attended the district schools in boyhood whenever his father could spare him, and as soon as he was old enough he became the home farmer and remained with his parents until his marriage. He started housekeeping on a farm quite near the one which he now owns but shortly returned to the old homestead and has lived here practically all his life. He carries on general farming and stock raising.

Mr. Worst was married January 30, 1870, to Miss Mary Isenbarger, of Madison Township, Hancock County, a daughter of Arnold and Susan Isenbarger who were natives of Columbiana County, O. Mr. and Mrs. Worst have had five children, namely: John, who married Maggie Eibling, of Washington Township, Hardin County, O.; Effie, who died at the age of three years; Edward; Frank, who married Catherine O'Roark of Blanchard Township, and has one son, Richard; and Donna, who resides at home. Mr. Worst takes no very active part in politics but he is a good citizen and shows his worth when any question comes up in regard to the general welfare of his neighborhood. He believes in good schools and good roads.

ROBERT LEFFLER KING, one of the leading men of Big Lick Township, a justice of the peace and the owner of one of the good improved farms in this township, belongs to one of the old and substantial families of this section of Hancock County, O. He was born at Springfield, O., August 24, 1863, and is a son of R. Q. and Hattie (Danforth) King. R. Q. King, father of R. L., was born at Tarlaton, O., August 13, 1832, and is a son of David King who purchased the farm owned by his grandson in 1849. R. Q. King resides in Springfield, O. He was married in early manhood to Hattie Danforth, a native of New Albany, Ind., who died in 1907. Five children were born to this marriage: D. Ward, Thomas D., Robert L., Almena A., and Madge C., the second and last named being deceased.

R. L. King traveled through the west for several years, working at farming part of the time. February 2, 1887, he began to live on and improve this land which had first come into the King name thirty-eight years before, but had never been even cleared. After taking up his residence on this land he cleared, fenced it and began to prepare it for cultivation. The draining of this land was the cause of a great deal of trouble, the county having put through

COL. JAMES FINDLAY

HANCOCK COUNTY ORPHANS' HOME, FINDLAY

SOUTH SIDE FIRE DEPARTMENT, FINDLAY

two ditches, from one of which came considerable litigation. Mr. King, however, finally succeeded in getting all necessary draining completed and has found himself in possession of a farm of exceeding fertility. Being enterprising and progressive, he has made other improvements, erecting buildings, which have no superior in the township.

On December 18, 1908, he lost his large barn by fire, a conflagration which was deemed the largest that ever occurred in Hancock County, outside of Findlay. At the present writing he is rebuilding and the new structure will be practically indestructible, being largely made of concrete and vitrified blocks. It is his object to make all his buildings equally fireproof and he has completed his horse stable and granary and also two very large vitrified block and cement silos. He has very practical ideas and has adopted many modern methods in conducting his farming and stock raising. In 1891 Mr. King was married to Miss Lola Askam, who was born and reared at Vanlue, Hancock County, and they have three children: Edwin A., Hamlin C. and Jessie.

ROBERT P. TWINING, one of Liberty Township's large farmers and well known citizens, resides on what was formely known as the old Bushong farm, which is now owned by Mrs. Twining—a tract of 221 acres, lying in both Liberty and Portage Townships, Hancock County, O. He was born in Hancock County, August 27, 1860, and is a son of Eleazer and Eliza Jane (Sharp) Twining.

Eleazer Twining was born in Bucks County, Pa., and was seven years old when he accompanied his parents, Joseph and Mary Twining, to Hancock County, where they spent the remainder of their lives. Eleazer Twining was married twice, his first wife being a Miss Thomas and his second wife Eliza Jane Sharp, who was a daughter of Philip Sharp. Their family consisted of five sons, two of whom are now deceased. Eleazer Twining spent the greater part of his life in Marion Township, Hancock County, where his death occurred when he was fifty-four years of age. His burial was in the Van Horn Cemetery. The mother of Robert P. Twining died at the age of thirty-eight years and her burial was in the Pleasant Hill Cemetery. They attended the Methodist Episcopal and the Evangelical churches. In politics Mr. Twining was a Republican but cared nothing for office, his time being fully occupied with farming and work at the carpenter's trade.

Robert P. Twining obtained his education in the public schools of Hancock and Wood Counties and then worked for two years at the plough. He finally decided to learn the bricklaying trade and has done a large amount of first class brick work through this section, building many schoolhouses, foundations and furnaces. After marriage he lived at Findlay for six years and then moved to a farm for two years, later returning to Findlay. Subsequently he came back to Mrs. Twining's farm, which he has managed ever since.

On October 12, 1887, Mr. Twining was married to Miss Florella Bushong, a daughter of Isaac and Nancy (Cooper) Bushong, and they have one son, Carl, who is a member of the graduating class of 1911 at Findlay College. He is talented in music and is proficient on the cornet. Mr. and Mrs. Twining are members of the Church of God. In his views on politics he is a Republican but does not call himself a politician, merely a good citizen who cheerfully upholds the laws by his ballot.

Isaac Bushong was born in Portage Township, Hancock County, a son of David and Elizabeth Bushong. Isaac Bushong enlisted for service in the Civil War, entering Company B, 21st O. Vol. Inf., and while in the service was so injured that he lost his voice for six months but finally recovered and at the close of the war returned to Portage Township. He died at the age of fifty-six years and his burial was in Maple Grove Cemetery. He married Nancy Cooper, a daughter of Amos Cooper of Portage Township. She died at the age of fifty-four years. They were leading members of the Methodist Episcopal church, in which he was a class leader for some years. He owned over 220 acres of land and was a man of high personal standing in Liberty and Portage Townships and served in numerous township offices.

JAMES W. KIRKBRIDE*, deceased, formerly one of Findlay's capitalists and a highly esteemed citizen, was very prominently identified with the business interests of this section and for a number of years was one of the largest independent oil producers in Ohio, and also owned oil leases and properties in other states. He was born November 22, 1854, at Ogdensburg, New York, a son of Joseph and Sarah (Nugent) Kirkbride, natives of England.

James W. Kirkbride was thirteen years of age when he accompanied his father in the family removal to Warren County, Pa., where his education was completed, after which he assisted his father for four years in contracting and building oil derricks and tanks. In this way he gained a thorough knowledge of the oil business, of its methods and its possibilities, and as soon as he had accumulated a little capital he made not unsuccessful ventures for himself. He became interested in the Butler and Armstrong County oil fields, in Pennsylvania, and remained there until 1880, when the finding of a rich oil field in Alleghany County, New York, attracted him to that point. In 1886, when the promising field was opened in Hancock County, Ohio, he established his permanent home at Findlay, investing a large amount of capital in oil leases as well as in the lumber regions, and for years afterward he carried on both a retail and wholesale lumber business. He became a power in this line as well as in the oil industry.

The drilling of the wonderful Kirkbride oil well, in November, 1894, in which successful enterprise he was associated with his brother, and which was the largest well ever opened up in the Ohio fields, is easily recalled, as it was a most notable event in oil history. Mr. Kirkbride had never entered into the wild speculation which so greatly affected the fortunes of many of the oil men of the day, his natural business caution and unusual foresight preserving him from the failures which on every side marked the want of wisdom of many one-time capitalists. He owned stock in some of Findlay's financial institutions and owned numerous mining properties in the West. He had shown his faith in the future of Findlay by also investing largely in real estate here and he erected the handsome Kirkbride Block. As a citizen he was public spirited and open-handed. Personally he was held in affection by a devoted family, and in highest esteem by friends and associates. He was a worthy member of the Howard Methodist Episcopal church.

In 1877 Mr. Kirkbride was married to Miss Amy C. Carson, of Parker, Pa. They had three children: Charles W., who is largely interested in the oil business, and resides at 202 Hancock Street; Amy G., the wife of C. H.

Messinger, a prominent business man of Toledo, Ohio; and Harry C., who resides with his mother in her beautiful residence situated at No. 941 South Main Street.

MARION SWARTZ, who owns an excellent farm of eighty acres, which is situated in Jackson Township, Hancock County, Ohio, was born in Hardin County, Ohio, September 3, 1867. His parents were Samuel and Sarah Elizabeth (Obenoure) Swartz.

Samuel Swartz was born in Muskegon County, Ohio, January 27, 1839, and died in Kansas in 1890. He married Sarah Elizabeth Obenoure, who was born in Ohio, January 12, 1847, and resides at Pacific Grove, California. They had five children, namely: Marion; Clarence E., who died when aged twenty-four years; Mertie Ann, who married Silas Jefferson, who belonged to the same branch of the Jefferson family as did President Thomas Jefferson (they live in California where he is a stock buyer); Alberta Ellsworth, a railroad man in California, who married Ida Linguist; and Lydia Melvina, who is the wife of Arthur Durba, a barber at Fresno, California.

When Marion Swartz was eight years old his parents moved to Henry County, and as the family home continued there for eleven years, he secured his schooling there. Removal was then made to Kansas and while living there he worked out on farms by the month for his father, and after reaching his majority he engaged in farming for himself for two years. In October, 1891, he went on a trip that extended through Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona and California, after which he went back to Kansas for two years. In 1894 he again visited California and remained in the far west for five years. He then returned to his native state to marry, and then went back to California for one year more. In 1901 he came to Hancock County and bought his present farm from Mary Vanhorn. This land was entered from the Government on July 10, 1837, by George Goodell, and the legal papers bear the signature of President Martin Van Buren. Mr. Swartz has done considerable traveling and has seen many other parts of the country than the one in which he was born, but when he decided to locate permanently he found no section quite equal in every way to beautiful Ohio. Many other natives of this noble State have felt the same way and for that reason her citizenship, natural born, is of so high and loyal a type.

In 1900 Mr. Swartz was married to Miss Elizabeth Winemiller, a daughter of J. J. Winemiller and wife, who live in Jackson Township. Mrs. Swartz is the second born in a family of three children, having a brother and a sister: Frank, who is a farmer in Henry County, where he owns eighty acres of land; and Minnie J., who is the wife of Frank Alger, who owns eighty acres of land in Jackson Township. Mr. and Mrs. Swartz have two children, Ervin T. and Ama Marcella. Mr. Swartz has been a member of the Methodist Episcopal church at Houcktown since he was twenty-two years of age and for about the same time has been a member of the fraternal order of Woodmen of the World, No. 333, California. He votes with the Republican party but the only township office he has ever accepted was that of school director. He is numbered with the reliable and representative men of Jackson Township.

HILTON A. VICKERS*, M. D., who has been engaged in medical practice at Findlay, Ohio, since 1893, has become identified with

the interests of this city to a very large degree and numbered among his personal as well as professional friends, the representative people of the community. Dr. Vickers was born June 18, 1857, at Old Plainfield, Ohio, a son of the late Dr. W. H. Vickers, for many years a physician in Coshocton County, Ohio.

Dr. Hilton A. Vickers attended the schools of his native place until he was eighteen years of age, when he went to Indiana, where he alternated going to school with working on a farm, in Henry County. Subsequently he taught school in that State for several years, after which he returned to Ohio and entered upon the study of medicine with Dr. A. E. Walker, a well known physician of Old Plainfield, and in 1884 he was graduated from the Columbus Medical College. For eight subsequent years, Dr. Vickers engaged in a general practice at Evansburg, and for two years at Deshler, in Henry County, and then came to Findlay, where he has been established ever since. He is a member of the Hancock Medical Society and of the Northwestern Ohio Medical Association, and keeps closely in touch with all matters of scientific research in the profession to which he has devoted his life. His office with its library and expensive equipments which successful modern practice demands, is located in the Goodwin Block on North Main Street, Findlay. In 1881, at Old Plainfield, Dr. Vickers was married to Miss Sallie Smith, and they have an interesting family. Their comfortable home is situated at No. 804 Franklin Avenue. Politically, Dr. Vickers is a Republican and fraternally he is a Mason.

DANIEL MATTER, a successful farmer residing in Section 31, Orange Township, where he owns ninety-four acres of excellent land, was born in this township, November 12, 1862, and is a son of Christian and Regina (Stauffer) Matter.

Christian Matter was born in Richland County, O., and in childhood was brought to Allen County by his parents, who were Samuel and Elizabeth Matter. He grew up there and married Regina Stauffer and ten of their eleven children were born in Allen County. They were as follows: John, Samuel, Daniel, Noah, Peter, William, Theopholis, Sarah, Anna, Katherine and Henry, Daniel being born during a period of eighteen months that the family lived in Hancock County near the Allen County line. The parents of the above family were members of the Reformed church. In politics the father was a Democrat. His death occurred July 10, 1895, at the age of fifty-six years and his burial was at Bluffton. His widow and youngest son reside on the old home farm.

Daniel Matter attended the district schools in boyhood and youth but after he was nineteen years of age his time was mainly given to farming and about the time he reached his majority he began to manage property on his own account, in Allen County. After his first marriage he came to Orange Township and for two years operated the farm on which D. D. Hilty resides, after which he came to his present place, where he erected the fine buildings which add to the attractiveness and value of his property. He carries on general farming and also is interested in breeding cattle. For some three years he has been pumping oil from six wells on his land and they are still producing.

Mr. Matter was married the first time to

Miss Lizzie Jane Stratton, a daughter of Asa Stratton, of Bluffton, O. She died December 3, 1901, and was buried at Bluffton, She was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. Two children survive her: Grace May, who married Clyde Klingler, of Allen County, and they have one daughter, Rhea; and Edith Lillian, who resides at home. His second marriage took place on July 8, 1903, to Miss Lillie E. Welsh, of Hardin County, O., and they have had two children: Don Edgar, who died at his home, aged eight weeks, and Daniel Emerson. They are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, in which he is very active, being a trustee and steward and superintendent of the Sabbath school. He is a Democrat in politics, served six years as township constable, also was on the school board and is at present a trustee of the township. Mr. Matter is one of the representative men of this section and one of the busiest. In addition to cultivating his own farm he also operates another of eighty acres which he leases.

HON. S. N. E. PRIDDY*, president of the Buckeye Traction Ditcher Company, of Findlay, of which city he has been a prominent business man for almost twenty years, was born February 21, 1844, in Van Wert County, O., a son of Thomas D. and a grandson of William Priddy. The latter was the pioneer of the family in Ohio, a native of Virginia and a son of a Revolutionary patriot. On the maternal side Mr. Priddy is a descendant of General Warren of the Revolutionary War.

S. N. E. Priddy attended the district schools in Van Wert County and grew to manhood on the home farm. The opening of the Civil War aroused in him the old patriotic spirit of his great-grandfather and September 11, 1861, saw him an enrolled soldier in Company H, 15th O. Vol. Inf., in which he served faithfully until he was obliged to accept his discharge on account of physical disability. His spirit, however, was not quenched nor his enthusiasm dampened, and in November, 1863, when his health had been re-established, he re-enlisted in his old company and regiment and continued to face all the many hardships and dangers of his command until the close of the Rebellion. His military record is one of which he may well be proud.

After the close of the war Mr. Priddy returned to the home farm and remained there until 1871, when he embarked in the business of supplying railroad ties for one of the great transportation lines then creeping across the country, and two years later went into the milling business and for about a dozen years operated a saw mill, a grist mill and a planing mill, at Middlepoint, O. He there became a man of affairs, honored and respected by his fellow citizens, serving on the city council and school board and for five successive years was elected mayor. In 1890 Mr. Priddy transferred his interests to Findlay and in this city identified himself with both public and private interests.

Mr. Priddy was married in 1872 to Miss Elizabeth Price, a daughter of John and Rachel (Coslett) Price, of Middlepoint. Of their children, Thomas D. is a drainage contractor now in business at New Orleans; John E. is a prominent attorney of Findlay, and has his offices in the Commercial Bank Building and his residence at No.

121 Baldwin Avenue; Edgar is a mechanical expert with the Buckeye Company of Toledo, O.; Vernon is now general manager of the Western branch of the Review of Reviews at Chicago, Ill.; Miss Edith is the one daughter. Mr. Priddy and family reside in one of the most beautiful homes in the city, at No. 1109 South Main Street, Findlay. They are affiliated with the Methodist Episcopal church. In his political views, Mr. Priddy, with his sons, is a Republican.

J. M. RUCKMAN, M. D., one of the leading medical practitioners of Jenera, Ohio, was born April 24, 1872, in Big Lick Township, Hancock County, Ohio, and was there reared to maturity. After obtaining a common school education in Big Lick Township, he taught five years in the schools of the county, then spent two years at the Ohio State Normal at Ada, and in 1900 graduated from the Starling Medical College of Columbus, Ohio. He then came to Jenera, Ohio, where he has established an extensive practice, and enjoys the confidence and esteem of his fellow citizens to the fullest extent. Dr. Ruckman was married June 4, 1901, to Caroline Edwards, a native of Findlay, Ohio, who taught for five years in the schools of Hancock County. Of their union have been born: James Merritt; Kenneth Edwards; and Lucia Adele. Dr. Ruckman is an adherent of the Democratic party in politics and is a member of the Hancock County and the North Western State Medical Societies.

CHARLES E. VANHORN, one of Amanda Township's prominent citizens, successful farmers and stockmen, resides in Section 7, Amanda Township, Hancock County, O., eight miles southeast of Findlay, where he owns 165 acres of valuable land. He was born in Amanda Township, April 17, 1843, and is a son of Charles and Sarah (Twining) Vanhorn.

Both parents of Mr. Vanhorn were born and reared in Bucks County, Pa. They came to Hancock County in 1833 and the father bought 200 acres of land in Amanda Township, at $4 an acre, which is almost beyond belief, considering the price of the same land at the present time. Later he again invested, in 1835, purchasing fifty-four acres situated in Section 6, in the same township. The parents lived in this township during the remainder of their lives, the father dying in 1881, at the age of eighty-one years and the mother passing away in 1879, when aged seventy-six years. They had ten children, namely: George W. and J. M., both of whom are deceased; Robert; Mary, who is Mrs. Aurand; Martha, who married a Mr. Marvin; Phebe, who is Mrs. Grove; Harrison; Sarah, who is Mrs. Caruthers, lives at Findlay; Charles E.; and John.

Charles E. Vanhorn obtained his education in the township schools and helped his father on the farm. He has devoted his life to agricultural pursuits. For forty-five years he has been engaged in buying and shipping livestock and wool and in carrying on general farming.

Mr. Vanhorn was married first in 1866, to Miss Elizabeth Smith, a daughter of Rev. Smith, of Amanda Township. She died in 1894, and was survived by two daughters, Agnes and Garnet. Agnes is the wife of

Joseph Shull, of Amanda Township, and they have six children: Edith, Esther, Ethel, Russell, Harold and Erma. Garnet married George Davis, of Findlay, and they have one daughter, Mary. Mr. Vanhorn was married second to Mary M. Sutherland, of Amanda Township. Mrs. Vanhorn is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. Vanhorn is one of the leading Republicans of his township and has served for ten years in the office of land appraiser.

WILLIAM F. BLOOM*, county recorder of Hancock County, Ohio, was born in Union Township, Hancock County, November 13, 1864, and is a son of Jacob and Mary (Zelert) Bloom.

Jacob Bloom was born in 1841, in Tuscarawas County, Ohio, and died in Hancock County in 1872. He married Mary Zelert, who is a sister of Professor Zelert. They had four children.

William F. Bloom was educated in the public schools of Union Township and the Normal School at Ada, Ohio. He engaged in teaching for a time and then returned to agricultural pursuits, which he continued until he was first elected to his present office, in November, 1901, on the Republican ticket, by a plurality of 349 votes. It is very evident that he gave satisfactory service, as when he was re-elected in 1904, it was by a plurality of 1,470 votes, a remarkable increase. The people of Hancock County speak well of him and in these days of corruption in public office in many sections, they feel well contented with their officials who have many times proved their honesty and integrity. Mr. Bloom owns a well improved farm of fifty acres which is situated in Orange Township, Hancock County.

Mr. Bloom married Miss Mary Ford, a daughter of John Ford, of Hancock County, and their children are: Jacob P., Edgar B., and William F., Jr. Mr. and Mrs. Bloom are members of Grace Episcopal church. Their pleasant home is situated at No. 414 North Cory Street. He is an Odd Fellow.

HENRY WILLIAM BRINKMAN, who is engaged in general farming on a tract of sixty-five acres, located in Section 15, Cass Township, was born April 23, 1842, in Hanover, Germany, and is a son of Lewis and Dorothy (Trader) Brinkman.

Lewis Brinkman and his wife were both born in Hanover, Germany, and spent their entire lives in their native country. They were the parents of one child, Henry William, the subject of this record. The mother of our subject first married Henry Agathon, by whom she had the following children: Frederick Coberg, Henry, Detrich, Dora, and Lenora, all of whom are now deceased.

Henry W. Brinkman grew to maturity in Hanover, Germany, where during his early manhood he worked in a factory, and in 1880 he came to the United States. He had saved some money before coming to this country, but the expenses of the trip, together with sickness, swallowed up the greater part of it, leaving him just sufficient capital with which to buy a cow and some furniture. For the first two years after coming here he worked out by the day at seventy-five cents per day. In 1890, however, he purchased from L. Stacey his present farm, where he has since carried on gen-

eral farming, and has made all the improvements on his property, having erected a good substantial house and other buildings.

Mr. Brinkman was first married in Germany in 1868, to Margrethe Schuhlenber, and of this union were born five children, namely: William; Henry, who married Emma Lyons, and has three children, Floyd, Bertha and Ruth; Minnie, who is the wife of Frank Harrold, and has six children, Clara, Alice, William, Edward, Clarence, and Floyd; and John and Sophie, who are deceased. Mrs. Brinkman died in 1880, and Mr. Brinkman formed a second union with Marie Flinert, who died about three and a half years after their marriage. On August 20, 1884, Mr. Brinkman married Minnie Nickie, a daughter of Fred and Mary (Doll) Nickie, both natives of Germany. Mrs. Brinkman was born January 18, 1863, in Hancock County, Ohio, the other children being: Carl, Sarah, Mary, Dora, Josie, and one that died in infancy. Mrs. Brinkman's father subsequently married Augusta Cuert, which union resulted in the following issue: Augusta, Lena, Emma, Anna, Martin, and Elva, the three last mentioned being now deceased. The father died in January, 1892.

Mr. and Mrs. Brinkman have had the following children: Charles, who died in infancy; Edward, who married Ethel Wilkes; Nora, who is the wife of George Drake; Lewis; Dora; Emma; Lydia, and Augusta. Mr. and Mrs. Brinkman are members of the Lutheran church.

JACOB MELVIN ROBINSON, a successful farmer and representative citizen of Pleasant Township, Hancock County, O., where he owns eighty acres of valuable and well improved land, was born in Blanchard Township, Hancock County, June 28, 1864, and is a son of Samuel H. and Elizabeth Deter Robinson.

Samuel H. Robinson was born in Columbiana County, O., in 1833, and is a retired resident of McComb. He was a mere boy when his father, Jacob Robinson, moved to Wood County, O., near Hoytsville. The latter later moved to McComb, where he and wife died. Samuel H. Robinson lived in Hancock County, near the Putnam County line, for forty years, and owned a farm of seventy acres in Blanchard Township. Before the railroad was built through McComb, he engaged in teaming for some years for the firm of Snyder & Barney, of McComb. He has always been a respected and useful citizen. He married Elizabeth Deter, who died in 1902, at the age of seventy years. They had three sons born to them: John Wallace, who is a farmer in Union County, near Marysville, O.; Peter Amos, who is engaged in the poultry business at McComb, and Jacob M., of Pleasant Township.

Jacob Melvin Robinson was educated in the public schools of Hancock County. Farming has been his main business. His unmarried life was spent in Pleasant Township. After marriage he lived for five years in Blanchard Township and then removed to Richfield Township, Henry County, where he resided for eleven years.

In the spring of 1905 he purchased his farm from his father and immediately began improving the property, building his comfortable and attractive residence and a modern, well proportioned barn, with dimensions of 60 by 36 feet and with a crib and wagon shed that is 16 by 36 feet in dimensions. He carries on general farming and stock raising, following modern methods and considering the use of improved farm machinery one of the necessary

RESIDENCE OF OZIAS E. BENINGTON, BIG LICK TOWNSHIP

adjuncts. In politics he is a Democrat, but takes only the interest of a good and intelligent citizen in public affairs, entertaining no desire to hold office.

In 1889 Mr. Robinson was married to Miss Ida Alwilda Bowers, a daughter of Daniel Bowers, of Blanchard Township, and they have three children, namely: Harold Clinton, aged eighteen years; Carrie Alta, aged fifteen years; and Velzora Marie, aged ten years, all of whom are being given educational advantages.

OZIAS E. BENINGTON, who owns seventy-one acres of valuable farm land which is situated in Section 3, Big Lick Township, Hancock County, O., ten and one-half miles east of Findlay, is one of the successful farmers of this neighborhood. He was born February 27, 1861, in Seneca County, O., and is a son of George S. and Amanda (Spragg) Benington.

George S. Benington was born in Carroll County, O., November 10, 1825, and died on our subject's farm, May 27, 1910. He married Amanda Spragg, who was born in Pennsylvania and died in 1905. They had eleven children: Ignatius, Susan, Calvin J., Uriah C., Libbie, Ozias E., Jane, Benson A., Alice, Belle, and Cora.

Ozias E. Benington remained at home helping his father until he was nineteen years of age, in the meanwhile obtaining a common school education. When he started out for himself, he bought a farm in Indiana on which he lived for a few years and then came to his present property in Big Lick Township. He carries on a general farming line which includes the growing of fruit and the raising of stock for his own use.

In 1886, Mr. Benington was married to Miss Eliza A. Taylor, who was born in Washington Township, Hancock County, and is a daughter of Robert Taylor, and they have six children: Ralph, Genevria, Grace, Dewey, Harold and Taylor. In politics, Mr. Benington is a Republican and keeps well posted on public matters, but he has never sought office. He is a practical man and finds his time well employed in looking after his own business affairs.

SAMUEL E. RENNINGER*, plumber and gas fitter, at Findlay, Ohio, is the head of the firm of S. E. Renninger & Co., at No. 602 South Main Street, and has been established in this line in this city since October, 1903. Mr. Renninger was born on a farm in Liberty Township, Hancock County, Ohio, October 20, 1876, and is a son of William and Sarah (Emerson) Renninger. William Renninger was a prosperous farmer in Liberty Township for many years and then retired to Findlay, where his death occurred September 21, 1897. His widow is still living.

Samuel E. Renninger was reared on the home farm and after leaving school worked for eleven years in the oil fields as a pumper for the Ohio Oil Company, after which he learned his trade with a plumber at Findlay and for several months was in partnership with A. E. Powell, and then bought his partner's interest. He has a first class establishment in which he employs from four to eight men and takes contracts and separate orders for plumbing, steam, gas and hot water heating and sheet metal working.

Mr. Renninger was married to Miss Anna R. Brady, a daughter of Mathew Brady. She was born in Ross County but was reared in Hancock County. They have two children, Mary Ilene and Margaret Elizabeth. Mr.

Renninger is a member of the order of Ben Hur and of the Modern Woodmen of America.

WILLIAM W. COLE, who owns 143 acres of fine land, lying in Section 22, Big Lick Township, Hancock County, O., on the New Haven turnpike road, ten miles east of Findlay, is one of the representative and reliable citizens of the township. He was born near Portersville, Mich., December 27, 1856, and is a son of John W. and a grandson of James Cole.

John W. Cole was born in Ashland County, O., in 1831, a son of James Cole, who was born in Delaware, where he married. With his wife he came to Ashland County, O., where his children were born, and then moved to Big Lick Township, Hancock County, where the remainder of his life was spent. To James Cole and wife the following children were born: William, John, Dickson, Benjamin, James, Roland, Andrew, Raymond, David, Elizabeth, Milla, and Wilminer. John married Sarah McCree, who was born in Scotland and was brought to America when eight years old by some relatives of the name of Allen, and with them she lived until they died, in 1851, when she married John W. Cole. A large family of children were born to them, namely: James, William, Elmer A., Charles W., John J., Dilman D., Benjamin, Raymond C., Lemuel, Ralph, Irvin, Jennie, Marietta, Minta and Janet and Rosett, twins, and almost the whole family still survives. The father died in 1905, and the mother in 1879.

For a few years in boyhood, William W. Cole attended the local schools and then went to the West for a few years and after he returned, settled on his present farm in Big Lick Township and here has ever since carried on general farming and stock raising with much success.

In 1881 Mr. Cole was married to Miss Ellen Bright, who was born and reared in Big Lick Township, a daughter of William Bright, and thirteen children have been born to this marriage, namely: Cloys, who is in the real estate business in Kansas; Ray C.; Carl M.; Florence, who married Charles Myers, a farmer in Washington Township; and Jessie, Aura, Edna, Mary, Nana, Esther, Glenna, Myrtie and Vertie. The two youngest, Myrtie and Vertie, were twins and they died at the age of 6 weeks from measles. Mr. Cole and family belong to the Methodist Episcopal church. He is a Republican in his political views.

HENRY SWINDLER ROLLER, whose valuable farm of eighty-nine acres lies in Section 31, Washington Township, Hancock County, O., is one of the enterprising and representative men of this part of the county. He was born on his father's farm in Big Lick Township, Hancock County, April 20, 1862, and is a son of Michael and Elizabeth (Swindler) Roller.

Michael Roller was born in Ashland County, O., and was twelve years old when he accompanied his parents to Hancock County. His father, William Roller, was born in Pennsylvania and was one of the early land agents in Ashland County and came from there to Big Lick Township, Hancock County, where he had entered large tracts of land. He had eight children: Wilson, Michael, George, Agnes, Mary, Lucinda, Charlotte and Susan. All are now deceased. The daughters married and the larger number of them moved farther west.

When Michael Roller came with his parents to this section, Findlay was a scattered village

of log houses surrounding the court house. He led a busy life from boyhood and for four years chopped down trees and cleared the farm of brush before he started to cultivate it. Later he introduced many improvements and kept the farm of 160 acres left him by his father intact for his own children and died on it at the age of sixty-five years. He married Elizabeth Swindler, who lived to be seventy-eight years of age. She was born in Jefferson County, O., and was a capable housewife and good mother. In the early days before her husband's means could provide other ways of transportation, she did not hesitate to carry produce to market on horseback and thus do her part in adding to the family income. Eight children were born to Michael and Elizabeth Roller, namely: William, who lives in Wood County, O.; Sarah, who is the widow of Allen Spahr; Mary; Philena, who is the wife of Jefferson Huffman; George; Ida, deceased, who was the wife of Samuel Taylor; Henry S.; and Lorena, who is the wife of Edward Vickers.

Henry S. Roller grew to manhood in Big Lick Township and attended the country schools as opportunity offered, although he began hard work on the farm when comparatively young. There was always a job of clearing or wood cutting awaiting him when farm work was not pressing and before the days of the oil boom he hauled and sold wood through Findlay. He remained at home for ten years after his marriage and continued to farm and raise stock there until the spring of 1895, when he bought a part of his present farm in Washington Township and later bought forty more acres, the remaining portion. He has remodeled the buildings and put everything in fine condition here and is numbered with the successful general farmers of this neighborhood.

Mr. Roller was married October 1, 1885, to Miss Margaret Ellen Vickers, a daughter of George and Malissa (Jolley) Vickers, the former of whom was born in Cass Township, Hancock County, a son of James Vickers, of England, who came here as a pioneer. George Vickers died October 27, 1866, aged thirty years. His widow, who survives him, was born in Columbiana County, O., and lost her parents when she was only nine years old, they dying within two weeks of each other. She was reared by a cousin and came to Hancock County when aged eighteen years and was married to George Vickers in 1859. Three children were born to that union: Mary E., who is deceased; Sarah Jane, who is the wife of George Roller; and Margaret Ellen, who is the wife of Henry S. Roller. Mrs. Roller was born on the old Vickers homestead in Cass Township. Mrs. Vickers was married a second time, to the late Mark Taylor, who died in April, 1906, leaving one daughter, Cora Dell, who is the wife of Roy Cook, of Findlay. Mr. and Mrs. Roller are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. In politics he is a Democrat.

JEREMIAH FERGUSON*, senior member of the firm of Ferguson & Son, architects and builders, with offices in the Niles Block, Findlay, has been actively engaged in business here for the past twenty years. He was born in Franklin County, Ohio, in 1860, his birthplace being within the present limits of the city of Columbus. His parents were Samuel and Catherine (Nazworthy) Ferguson.

Samuel Ferguson was a mechanic. Before coming to Findlay, in 1864, he, together with his brother, John Ferguson, had served as sol-

diers in the Civil War. It happened that both a Franklin County and a Hancock County regiment was short of men and the two companies were combined in one regiment, the men becoming well acquainted. The Fergusons were men of sterling character and made friends from Hancock County who urged them to come to Findlay after the expiration of their terms of service. There was still another brother, Joseph Ferguson, in the service at this time, but he did not live to return, being killed at the battle of Perryville, Kentucky. Samuel and John Ferguson acted upon the suggestion of their Hancock County friends and comrades and thus Findlay acquired several more excellent citizens. Samuel Ferguson was a woodworker and John Ferguson was a blacksmith and both were carriage workers and they purchased what is now Reimund Brothers carriage shop and conducted it together for some years. Their father, James Ferguson, accompanied his sons to Findlay, where the remainder of his life was passed. Samuel Ferguson is still a resident of Findlay but his wife died in 1900.

From the age of four years Mr. Ferguson has been a resident of Findlay. After his period of school attendance was over he served an apprenticeship in his father's carriage shop, after which he learned the carpenter's trade and went into building and designing. Few names in this line are better known in Hancock County than that of Jeremiah Ferguson and when a particularly imposing or pleasing structure is being erected at Findlay, the admirer can be pretty sure to find that the firm of Ferguson & Son are the designers if not also the builders. To Mr. Ferguson is credited: the Kirkbride Block; the S. L. McKelvy Block; the First Church of God; the United Presbyterian and the Central Church of Christ, all at Findlay; all the buildings at Riverside Park; the Country Club House, together with probably 500 fine private residences. He drew the architectural plans for many of the buildings and blocks, and designed all the three churches mentioned.

Mr. Ferguson was married at Findlay, Ohio, to Miss Mary J. Bryan, a daughter of Joseph Bryan, and they have had five children: Roy, who is in partnership with his father; Ruth; Hazel, who is the wife of John Alesch, of Findlay; Clark, who died when aged eleven months; and Harold. Mr. Ferguson was bereaved of his estimable wife, July 3, 1909. He has never been active in politics but is numbered with the earnest and useful men of the city, one who may be depended upon to ever give support to law and order.

DR. WILLIAM F. LEHR, who has been engaged in the practice of medicine at Arlington, Ohio, since the fall of 1899, was born June 13, 1870, in Hardin County, Ohio, and is a son of Daniel and Susan P. (Rentzer) Lehr. His father was born near Potsville, Schuylkill County, Pa., and came to Delaware, Ohio, to attend the Ohio Wesleyan University. It was here he met the mother of the subject of this sketch and they were married in 1855, and continued living in Delaware, where Mr. Lehr worked at his trade of saddler till about 1868, when they moved to Hardin County, Ohio. Here Mr. Lehr engaged in farming till his death, which was accidental, in 1875.

Dr. William F. Lehr was reared to manhood in Wyandot County, Ohio, where he attended the district schools. At the age of seventeen he began a course of study at the Ohio Normal school at Ada and after com-

pleting a four years' course, taught in the country schools of Wyandot County for five terms. He then entered the Eclectic Medical College of Cincinnati, Ohio, from which he graduated with the class of 1899. That same fall he embarked in the practice of medicine at Arlington, Ohio, where he has established an extensive practice and enjoys the confidence and esteem of his fellow citizens.

Dr. Lehr was married August 5, 1896, to Miss Salena J. Carey, of Marseilles, Ohio, a daughter of Archabald and Ellen (Gorden) Carey. She was also a teacher, having taught in the town and country schools six years. She was born in Demorestville, Canada, and came with her parents to Marseilles, Ohio, in 1882. Dr. and Mrs. Lehr are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, of Arlington, Ohio, of which he is at present one of the trustees.

GEORGE C. MONTGOMERY, general farmer, resides on his well cultivated farm of eighty acres which is situated in Section 21, Portage Township, Hancock County, O. He was born in Portage Township, October 10, 1861, and is a son of George W. and Mary (Chase) Montgomery.

George W. Montgomery was well known all over Hancock County as an auctioneer. His first wife, the mother of George C., died when her son was but six weeks old. Mr. Montgomery married for his second wife, Dorothy Culp, who proved a good mother to his children.

George C. Montgomery was reared in Portage Township on his father's farm and attended the country schools. For one year after marriage he made his home in McComb but continued to carry on farm operations on the homestead, his father's other duties demanding his attention in other directions. For the following five years Mr. Montgomery operated his father-in-law's farm and then bought and moved onto the present place in the spring of 1901 and immediately started to make improvements. He has remodeled the house and erected other necessary structures, rebuilt fencing, attended to the orchards—in fact turned it into a model farm.

Mr. Montgomery was married December 25, 1894, to Miss Jennie Wagoner and they have had four children: Wellington; a babe that died unnamed; Pearl; and Howard, who lived but five months.

EVERETT H. COATES*, plumber and steam fitter, engaged in business at No. 521 South Main Street, Findlay, Ohio, is a thoroughly experienced man in his line of business, with which he has been more or less connected since he was sixteen years of age. He was born on a farm in Blanchard Township, Hancock County, Ohio, June 25, 1878, and is a son of Norman G. and Mary E. (Callison) Coates.

Norman G. Coates was born in Pennsylvania and came to Hancock County, Ohio, with his father, Hiram G. Coates, when a boy. Until he was twenty-five years old, Norman G. Coates remained on the farm and then went to St. Louis, Michigan, where he was engaged in a hardware business for fifteen years and then came to Findlay. In 1883 he started the present plumbing business, in 1894 admitting his young son to a partnership, and the firm of Coates & Son continued until 1907, when

Mr. Coates sold out his interests to his partner and moved to Texas, where he still resides. He married Mary E. Callison, who was born in Indiana and died in October, 1908.

Everett H. Coates was one year old when his parents moved to St. Louis, Michigan, where he attended the public schools and after coming to Findlay, he attended Findlay College for four years. Although college bred, Mr. Coates has had no desire to adopt a professional career, preferring to engage in a business where skill and mechanical effort is necessary to success. A natural aptness for this line of work has been of assistance to him and he probably is considered one of the most reliable plumbers, gas fitters and installers of modern heating systems in the city and controls a large portion of the public's important work.

Mr. Coates married Miss Lillian Campfield, a daughter of the late William H. Campfield, who was a prominent cement contractor and builder at Findlay. The mother of Mrs. Coates was Henrietta Watts. Mr. and Mrs. Campfield had four children, Mrs. Coates being the third born. Mr. Coates is a member of the Knights of Pythias and also of the Elks.

OSCAR WISE, who conducts a hardware business at Mt. Blanchard, O., and is general manager of The People's Telephone Company, having lines in Hancock, Hardin and Wyandot Counties, is one of the representative men of the place. He was born in Knox County, O. His father, who was a native of Ashland County, died in Richland County in 1905. His mother was born in Richland County and still resides there.

Oscar Wise was reared at Butler, O., and attended school there. When he was only eleven years old he started to learn the tinner's trade, probably having inherited mechanical skill from his father, who was a carriage maker. Mr. Wise continued to work at his trade until he was thirty-six years of age, eighteen years of that time having charge of the tin shop and hardware store, and in 1892 began to be interested in the telephone business. By 1895 he had completed telephone lines over ten counties and had connected 154 towns. In 1900 he started a telephone system at Arlington, where he remained for three months and then came to Mt. Blanchard and organized a company in 1902 and up to this time there was no telephone system in Hancock County south of the corporation lines of Findlay. He has the management of the telephones at Forest, Kirby, Wharton, Arlington, Jenera, New Stark, Mt. Cory and Rawson, his company having over 1,900 telephones in operation. The service is entirely satisfactory. Mr. Wise is recognized as a very useful citizen and has been a member of the city council since 1909. He is identified with Lodge No. 519, F. & A. M., at Mt. Blanchard, in which he holds the office of senior warden.

WILLIAM BATTLES, a member of a well known family of Orange Township, Hancock County, O., and the owner of a valuable farm of 120 acres, situated in Section 20, was born in the center of Orange Township, February 13, 1848, in the old log house his father had erected there. His

parents were Asa and Catherine (Raimer) Battles.

Asa Battles was born in 1815, in Mercer County, Pa., and came to Ohio with his father, Brier Battles, who settled and died in Trumbull County. When Asa Battles left Trumbull County he had a horse and wagon, a few tools and $200 in money. He came to Hancock County and bought 200 acres of land in the center of Orange Township. It was a wild region at that time, forests stretching in every direction and in order to find space on which to build his first primitive home, Mr. Battles had to fell forest trees. This first 200 acres was purchased from Alexander Ewing. Later he added other tracts until he was one of the large land owners of this section, having 680 acres, enough to give each of his living children a farm. He practically cleared and fenced all of this land during his life time. He was a man of considerable importance and in those early days, as his house was centrally located, it was often used for the transaction of township business and as a voting place. In 1867 he replaced the log cabin with the house that still stands on the farm which is occupied by one of his sons. He married Catherine Raimer, who was then a resident of Allen County, O., although born in Germany. She accompanied her parents, Thebault and Sophia Raimer, and they reached America after a voyage of forty days, subsequently settling in Allen County, O.

To Asa Battles and wife the following children were born: John, Alfred, William, George, Edward, Eliza Jane, Asa, Jesse, Freeman, Robert and Harry. The two eldest sons died in the army during the Civil War. Edward lives on the old homestead and William resides in Orange Township not far distant. The father of this family died in November, 1904, and the mother in February, 1909. They were worthy and active members of the German Lutheran church and their burial was in the Thompson cemetery.

William Battles, the third member of the above family, attended the district schools in Orange Township, mainly in the winter time, until he was twenty years of age, and then assisted his father until he went to Iowa. Mr. Battles spent four years in that state and during this time he was married and one year later he returned to Hancock County and purchased his present farm in Orange Township, from the Thompson heirs. A large amount of improving had to be done before Mr. Battles was satisfied with the appearance of his home and all the buildings now standing are of his own erecting. He has thoroughly drained his land and has all of it under cultivation with the exception of four acres still in valuable timber. He carries on the usual pursuits of a general farmer, raises grain and hay, fruit and vegetables and enough stock for his own use.

Mr. Battles was married in Iowa, on January 14, 1867, to Miss Cordelia McConnell, a daughter of Alexander and Caroline (Raimer) McConnell. A family of seven children has been born to them, as follows: Jennie, who married Howard Schold and they have one son, Leonard; Jesse, who married Hattie Custer, and has one son, Walter; Maude, who married E. K. Chapman, and they have one daughter, Jennie C.; Minnie, who married Jacob Armstutz,

and they have three children, Robert, Helen and Wilbur; and Bertie, Grover and Edith, all at home. The family is well known in this section in all its connections and is held in high regard. Mrs. Battles is a member of the Evangelical church, to which Mr. Battles liberally contributes and also attends. In politics he is a Democrat but at present holds no political office. Formerly he served as school director.

JOHN V. HARTMAN, M. D.,* physician and surgeon at Findlay, Ohio, where he has been established since 1904, was born on his father's farm in Allen Township, Hancock County, Ohio, March 10, 1877, and is a son of Jasper N. and Mary Ellen (Skinner) Hartman.

Dr. Hartman had the undeniable advantage of a childhood and boyhood on a farm and the family continued to live there until the death of the mother, in 1885, when removal was made to Findlay, where John V. was soon enrolled a student in the grammar schools. For seven years after leaving school he engaged in teaching and in the meanwhile did his preparatory medical reading, subsequently entering the Cleveland Homeopathic College, where he was graduated in the class of 1904. During his last half year he filled the position of resident physician at the Cleveland Maternity Hospital, and from his period of graduation until he embarked in practice, he served as an interne in the Cleveland City Hospital. Dr. Hartman not only possesses the knowledge to make him successful in professional work, but also the enthusiasm and the peculiar gifts and personality which belong to every man of medicine who has reached any degree of eminence. He probably has the largest and most substantial practice of any physician in Hancock County. Every emergency finds him ready and through his knowledge and skill he has effected some remarkable victories over disease. He keeps thoroughly abreast with the times and belongs to the Hancock County and the Northwestern Ohio Medical Societies.

Dr. Hartman was married to Miss Zoe Codding, who was formerly a teacher in the Findlay High School. They have one daughter, Mary Ellen. The father of Dr. Hartman died at Findlay in 1906. His offices are in the Niles Building, where he occupies an elegantly appointed suite of rooms. He is identified with the fraternal order of Knights of Pythias.

WILLIAM E. SNYDER, one of the most prominent and best known men in Hancock County, a retired dry goods merchant and a large stockholder in the Glass Block Department Store of Findlay, Ohio, resides in a beautiful home at No. 321 West Sandusky Street. Mr. Snyder was in the dry goods business in Findlay from 1865 until 1890, conducting a store at the old White Corner, where the Buckeye Bank building now stands, and until a recent date held large interests in the Snyder Brothers Dry Goods Company of Richmond, Indiana, and in the D. D. Snyder Company of Minneapolis, Kansas. He was born at Greenville, Mercer County, Pa., January 4, 1836, a son of Simon A. and Elizabeth (Couldron) Snyder, who settled in Hancock County in 1848, coming overland in wagons from Pennsylvania, as there was but one railroad in the State of Ohio at that time. Simon A. Snyder was a carpenter, cabinetmaker and bridge-

builder and lived for many years on a farm in Union Township, but late in life moved to Findlay, where his death occurred.

William E. Snyder was twelve years of age when the family came from Pennsylvania and he well remembers many thrilling incidents of the overland journey, and at that time saw his first railroad train. He resided on the home farm for about two years, and when fourteen years of age came to Findlay to become a clerk for the Henderson-Patterson Dry Goods Company, of which the J. S. Patterson Dry Goods Company is the successor. Incidentally it may be remarked that Mr. J. S. Patterson, who is still in the dry goods business in Findlay was the only "boss" Mr. Snyder ever had, as, after working for the Henderson-Patterson Company for about six years, and when but twenty years of age, Mr. Snyder formed a partnership with B. B. Barney in a general store at McComb, Hancock County, under the firm name of Barney-Snyder Company. This store was one of the pioneer department stores, selling almost everything imaginable. In 1865 Mr. Barney and Mr. Snyder opened up the old White Corner dry goods store in Findlay, and later on, with Charles Foster, who was then governor of Ohio, and a brother, D. D. Snyder, he conducted a store at Fostoria, Ohio, and for several years continued to be interested in all three establishments. In 1870 Mr. Snyder bought out the interests of Mr. Barney, and continued to conduct the store at Findlay under the firm name of W. E. Snyder Company.

Mr. Snyder was married to Sarah H. Duduit, a native of Hancock County, whose father, Frederick Duduit, was born in Southern Ohio, near the Ohio River, and was a member of the well known Duduit family, natives of France who are prominently mentioned in all histories of this State. Mr. and Mrs. Snyder have had two children: Reginald C., who married Miss Alice Mack, daughter of the well known Sandusky editor, has one child, Alice, and lives in Coshocton, Ohio, being proprietor of the Coshocton Age; and Bernice Fredericka, living at home.

Mr. Snyder was the owner of the hotel building known as the Joy House, formerly the property of ex-Senator Joy, at the corner of Main and West Sandusky Streets, which has been remodeled and converted into the Glass Block Department Store, and it was mainly through Mr. Snyder's efforts that this establishment was located in Findlay. He is the owner of a great deal of real estate, among which may be mentioned the Tavern Hotel building. He is prominent in Masonry, having attained to the 32nd degree, and now holds the office of Worshipful Master of Lodge No. 227, F. & A. M. of Findlay. Personally, Mr. Snyder is a very congenial gentleman, numbering his friends by the hundreds, and, although retired from active business affairs, is still regarded as one of Findlay's most prominent and public-spirited citizens.

SAMUEL EDWIN MOORHEAD, one of Portage Township's best known citizens, resides in his comfortable farm home which stands in Section 31, three miles southeast of McComb, O. In partnership with his two sons, Fred and Thaddeus E. Moorhead, he owns 172 acres of valuable and well improved land, situated in Sections 30 and 31, Portage Township. He was born on this farm, September 25, 1850, and is a son of Andrew and Letitia (Bell) Moorhead.

Andrew Moorhead was born in Westmoreland County, Pa., and died in Hancock County in 1884. He was brought to Stark County, Ohio, by his parents and his father, John Moorhead, died there. Andrew Moorhead came to Hancock County in 1836, one of six brothers who settled here between 1834 and 1836. Andrew Moorhead entered the land on which his descendants live and in order to reach it and take possession, he had to break his way through the forest and blaze a path for future return journeys to civilized regions. This path ran four miles through a dense wilderness. This land has never since been out of the Moorhead name. Both parents of Samuel E. Moorhead spent the remainder of their lives here, the mother dying when her son was but thirteen years of age.

Samuel Edwin Moorhead was reared on the farm that has caused his father so much toil and hardship to secure and as he grew to manhood he assisted largely in its development and with the exception of seven years, during which he lived in Liberty Township, has always resided here.

Mr. Moorhead married Miss Agnes Marshall, who was born at Slatington, Pa., and died here in 1884. She was a daughter of James Marshall, a native of Scotland, who came to Portage Township in 1868 and became a substantial farmer. Eight children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Moorhead, namely: Mabel M., who survives her husband, W. P. Jacobs; Grace, who is the wife of Charles Ream, of Fort Wayne; Andrew Clyde, who is engaged as a pumper in the oil fields, and lives in Portage Township; Frederick F., who resides on the homestead; Bert M., who is a farmer, with a family, and lives in Indiana; Adrian O., who lives with his family at Toledo, O.; Samuel C., who resides with his family in Indiana; and Thaddeus E., who remains on the homestead and with his brother, Fred F., operates the farm. He is married and has a family.

Mr. Moorhead is a Republican in politics and for sixteen years served as a member of the county election board. At the time of writing he is his party's candidate for county commissioner. Being a man of property, intelligence, good judgment and high personal standing, it would appear that he is particularly well qualified for an office of so much importance.

O. E. NEELEY*, junior member of the firm of W. E. Crater & Co., grocers, with business quarters in the Crater Block, occupying Nos. 630-632 South Main Street, Findlay, Ohio, has been a resident of this city since 1890. He was born on a farm in Big Lick Township, Hancock County, Ohio, May 24, 1879, and is a son of David E. and Caroline (Conner) Neeley.

David E. Neeley was born in Hardin County, Ohio, but he became a resident of Findlay, where he died April 24, 1909. He married Caroline Conner, who was born in Auglaize County, Ohio, and died in 1886.

O. E. Neeley was reared on the farm and gained his book education in the country schools. After coming to Findlay he became a clerk in the grocery house of Barnett & Boyd, then engaged in business on the same corner that is the site of the Crater Block, and for three years before entering into the present firm, conducted a grocery business under the firm style of

Harris & Neeley. Mr. Neeley has been identified with the present firm as junior partner since January 1, 1908. This firm has a high commercial rating, dealing only in standard goods and handling exclusively the products of the best manufacturers. The firm enjoys liberal patronage, which it entirely deserves.

Mr. Neeley was married to Miss Blanche Shaffer, a daughter of A. J. Shaffer, of Findlay, and they have had two children, Milton Edward, who died in infancy, and Martha Heloise. Mr. Neeley is affiliated fraternally with the Knights of Pythias and the Odd Fellows. He takes only the interest of a good citizen in politics, desiring no offices for himself and casting his vote for the candidates he feels assured will best carry out the laws and thus ensure the general welfare.

J. L. STEINER, superintendent of the Rawson public schools, has been a resident of this pleasant town since 1907 and has made both professional and personal friends since assuming the duties of his present important office. He was born near Grand Rapids, in Kent County, Mich., April 29, 1874, and is a son of P. D. and Anna Steiner, of near Bluffton.

P. D. Steiner was born in Wayne County, O., and is a son of Peter Steiner, who was a native of Germany. P. D. Steiner has always followed agricultural pursuits and resides on his farm in Orange Township, Hancock County O. He married Anna Leatherman, who was born in Bucks County, Pa. She died May 13, 1882, in Kent County, Mich.

J. L. Steiner was eight years old when his father moved from Michigan to Medina County, O., then to Wayne County and then to Richland Township, Allen County, then to Orange Township, Hancock County, where he attended the country schools for a time and later the public school known as the Center School, near Bluffton, and from there he entered the Bluffton High School, where he continued for two years. After teaching four years in Orange Township, Hancock County, and Monroe Township, Allen County, he spent three years in the Ohio Normal University at Ada, where he graduated in 1900. He also graduated at Elkhart Institute, which is now Goshen College, Goshen, Ind., in three courses. Since then he has been engaged in teaching and superintending schools in Indiana and Beaverdam, O. He has devoted his life to educational work and has gained recognition as a thoroughly qualified teacher. Under his management the Rawson schools have made very noticeable progress and his plans for the future include still further advancement of educational standards.

Mr. Steiner was married in 1900, to Miss Lydia Metzler, who was born in Mahoning County, O., and died at her mother's home near Orville, O., August 10, 1910, aged thirty-one years and two months, leaving three children: Loren Franklin, Mary Evelyn, and Harold Metzler. Mr. Steiner is a member of the American Mennonite church, attending services near Bluffton. He also is active in church and Sunday school services at his place of residence. He is the active leader in educational progress in the schools and town.

JACOB L. METZLER, who conducts a high class grocery and queensware store, is one of the most prominent business men and highly esteemed citizens of Findlay, Hancock County, Ohio, and has been identified with the business interests of this city since 1887. He was born May 16, 1850, on a farm about five miles west of Findlay, Ohio, in Liberty Township, and is a son of Jacob and Harriet (Lenhart) Metzler. The parents of our subject were both natives of Mahoning County, Pa., and were there reared, educated and married. In 1849 they came to Hancock County, Ohio, and located on a farm in Liberty Township, where the father died in 1864. His widow subsequently removed to Johnston County, Mo., where she resided until the time of her death.

Jacob L. Metzler was about fourteen years old when he accompanied his widowed mother to Johnston County, Mo., where he resided until after her death, when he went to Colorado, where he was for two years interested in mining. He then engaged in the lumber and mercantile business which he carried on successfully for six years, and in 1887 came to Findlay, Ohio, where he entered the employ of his brother, H. H. Metzler, who for ten years operated the business now owned by our subject. The business was established in 1877 by H. H. Metzler and Mr. Hyatt (deceased), who was the owner of the Hyatt Block, in which the store is located. In 1890 Mr. Metzler bought the business from his brother, and has since continued to operate it with a high degree of success, commanding an extensive patronage from the residents of Findlay and its surrounding community. Mr. Metzler stands very high in the business circles of Findlay and has been president of the Findlay Retail Grocers' and Butchers' Association since 1900, and president of the Central Delivery System of Findlay since its organization. He has held the position of trustee of The Toledo Biscuit Co. since its organization and is also one of its directors.

Mr. Metzler's home is located at No. 219 Defiance Avenue, where he has about one acre of ground, and devotes his spare time to breeding fancy poultry, making a specialty of the noted French Houdan chicken. He is an acknowledged judge of fine chickens, and has a pair of the Houdan breed, which won the first prizes at the last show of the Cleveland Poultry Association, the hen taking first prize and the rooster second. This same hen won the trophy cup as the highest scoring bird in the Findlay Poultry show, and his poultry has often won prizes at the Hancock and Wood County Fairs.

Mr. Metzler was married in Hamilton County, Iowa, to Adella Moulton, and they have five children: Mabel, Ethel, Clifford, Cuvier, and Fauntine. Mr. Metzler is a prominent member of the Elks and the Maccabees.

CONRAD HENRY HOGREFE, who is engaged in general farming on a tract of 80 acres located in Section 13, Cass Township, Hancock County, Ohio, was born October 4, 1840, in Hanover, Germany. His parents were both natives of Germany. The father died before our subject was born and the mother—Mary Hogrefe—also died in her native country. They were the parents of the following

children: William, who died in Iowa; Fred, who died in the southern army; Sophia, wife of Amiel Garber of Chicago, Ill.; Christopher, residing in Illinois; John, deceased; and Conrad H., the subject of this sketch.

Conrad H. Hogrefe was reared in Hanover, Germany, and there attended the common schools, after which he worked out by the day. In 1872 he came to America and located in Findlay, Ohio, on August 26th. The following day he went out to the Henry Kuhlman farm in Portage Township, and there spent the following winter. He worked for two months in a stone quarry at $1,25 per day and in the spring located in Portage Township on the John Cooper farm, which he rented for nine years. The house on this farm was an old log building, to which a frame addition had been added and had formerly been a school, and in this home Mr. Hogrefe began his career in this country. He later rented the Charles Tailor farm, which is located east of Van Buren in Allen Township, for three years; then for seven years he rented the Jasper Franks farm in Cass Township, and in 1890 bought his present farm of 80 acres at $40 an acre. During the first year, the place was farmed by his children, and he and his wife located here the following year. There was a little four-room house and barn on the place, and in 1893 Mr. Hogrefe built a seven-room frame house, remodeled the barn, dug a cellar and in various other ways made improvements on the place. Mr. Hogrefe has continued to follow general farming here with much success, and what he has attained in worldly goods has been entirely due to his own efforts, and those of his estimable wife. She spent many days working with him in the fields, and the first year on the place, bound the grain, while he cradled it.

Mr. Hogrefe was married October 1, 1870, in Hanover, Germany, to Mary Kuhlman, who was born February 15, 1843, in Hanover, and is a daughter of Henry and Mary (Frehking) Kuhlman. Her parents both came to this country, the father's death occurring the year after locating here. They were the parents of the following children: Mary, wife of our subject; William, of Allen Township; Fred, deceased; Dora, deceased, wife of William Sharninghouse; Herman, a resident of Blanchard Township; George, deceased; Sophia, the wife of Detrich Scheele, of Blanchard Township; and Anna, who is the wife of Henry Hector, of Putnam County, Ohio.

Mr. and Mrs. Hogrefe are parents of the following children: Henry, Emma, Jane, and Lena. Henry, who was born in Germany, was nine months old when his parents came to this country. He married Elizabeth Doke and they have four children, Esther, Gladys, Clara, and Otto. He resides on a farm of 80 acres in Cass Township. Jane, deceased, was the wife of William Fisher and the mother of one daughter, Mary. Lena married John Vogelsong and has two children, Lester and Emma. They live in Cass Township. The family holds membership with the Lutheran church. Mr. Hogrefe is politically a Democrat and has served on the school board of Cass Township.

CHARLES ALGE,* a member of the well known firm of Alge Brothers, who are general stone, concrete and brick contractors of Findlay, Ohio, was born September 14, 1862 in Martinstowns, Hancock County, Ohio, and is a son of Joseph and Theresa (Beck) Alge.

Joseph Alge was born in 1839 in Baden, Germany, where he spent the first eighteen years of his life. He then came to America,

located in Martinstown, Hancock County, Ohio, where he first purchased 40 acres of land. In 1871 he located in Findlay Township where he resided two years, and then removed to Eagle Township. In 1888 he came to Findlay, where he was living at the time of his death, February 16, 1910. He was one of the prominent pioneer contractors of Findlay, and was engaged in that business in Hancock County previous to the war. He erected many of the dwellings and business blocks of Findlay, the last one on which he and our subject contracted having been the Karst Block of Findlay. Shortly after locating in the county Mr. Alge invested his money in farm lands, and at the time of his death was the owner of two tracts of land, consisting of 268 acres. The mother of our subject is still living.

Charles Alge was nine years old when his parents removed from Martinstown to Findlay, where he was reared and attended the common schools. He learned brick and stone masonry with his father, who was one of the leading contractors of the county, and since 1884 has been engaged in general stone, concrete and brick contracting in partnership with his brother Joseph, operating under the firm name of Alge Brothers.

Mr. Alge was first united in marriage with Lena Savage, who died leaving three children: Gertrude, Charles, and Lester. He subsequently married Elizabeth Goodman and of their union were born, Annie, Agnes, Albert, Lawrence, Richard, and Bernard. The religious connection of the family is with the Roman Catholic church.

HENRY C. BRINKMAN, an enterprising citizen and well known general farmer of Allen Township, Hancock County, Ohio, is the owner of a farm of 75 acres located about one and a quarter miles east of Van Buren on the Ridge Road. He was born in Germany, February 1, 1871, and is a son of Henry W. and Margaret Brinkman, the latter of whom died when the son Henry was quite young.

In 1881 Henry Brinkman came to the United States with his father, who first resided at Findlay, Ohio, for a short time. They subsequently removed to Van Buren, where the father worked two years on the Mnason Adams farm in Allen Township. In 1883 he rented a farm in Allen Township, and they continued their residence on that farm until 1893, in which year Mr. Brinkman removed to a farm of 65 acres, which he had purchased in Cass Township. He married for his second wife, Minnie Nique, and they now reside on the farm in Cass Township.

Henry Brinkman was reared from his tenth year in Allen Township, and obtained his education in the district schools of that vicinity and at Van Buren. He follows general farming and is one of the prosperous and enterprising citizens of Allen Township. He is fraternally a member of the Knights of Pythias, No. 473, and of the Knights of the Maccabees. He has served as a member of the Allen Township school board, and is a member and trustee of the United Brethren church of Van Buren, Ohio.

In 1894 Mr. Brinkman was united in marriage with Emma J. Lyon, a daughter of E. S. Lyon. Mrs. Brinkman taught school for twenty-one months, three months in Hancock County and eighteen months in North Baltimore. Of their union have been born the following children—Floyd E., Bertha M. and Ruth Anlize, the last named being just one

month old when the agent was canvassing for the history.

W. E. HOUCK, who is prominently identified with the manufacturing interests of Hancock County, is manager of the Findlay branch of the Boss Manufacturing Company, which, in the line of its specialties, is the largest plant in the country and commands a larger output than any other in the world. Mr. Houck was born at Houcktown, Hancock County, Ohio, April 6, 1873, and is a son of William and Elizabeth (Smaltz) Houck.

William Houck is one of Hancock County's venerable and revered citizens. He was born March 4, 1827, and is a son of Jacob F. Houck, who gave his name to the town of Houcktown and was prominent in the early affairs of the county.

W. E. Houck grew up a farmer boy, but an intelligent and ambitious one. After leaving school he taught the country schools for seven years and then came to Findlay, and since 1901 has been in business here and has been with the Boss Manufacturing Company since 1893, when the plant was established in Findlay. The home plant of this company is at Kewanee, Illinois, and branch factories are located at Findlay, Ohio; Galesburg, Monmouth and Peoria, Illinois; New York City; Fort Wayne and Bluffton, Indiana; and Van Wert, Ohio. The Findlay plant is devoted exclusively to the manufacture of cloth gloves and mittens. The output of the factories include cloth gloves and mittens and corn husker gloves. Additions are being made at the present writing (1910) to the Findlay plant which will greatly increase production and facilitate business. A brick addition 50 by 140 feet, three stories in height, will soon be completed, in which will be installed an automatic sprinkling system as a fire protection. From 100 to 150 more employes will be required by this plant under the new conditions, 460 now being employed, these being mainly girls, 360 machines being operated. Mr. Houck is also president of the Hollerback Piano Company, manufacturers of pianos, the factory being located on Western Avenue, Findlay.

Mr. Houck married Miss Lorena Gail Prindle, of Hancock County, and they have two children, Hugh and Mary. Mr. Houck is an active and public-spirited citizen and during 1908 and 1909 was a member of the board of public service at Findlay. He is identified with the Masons, the Elks and the Knights of Pythias.

JACOB SLUPE, one of the old and prominent citizens of Pleasant Township, Hancock County, O., where he owns 200 acres of very fine land, was born in Columbiana County, O., February 21, 1830, and is a son of Solomon and Anna (Shatter) Slupe.

Solomon Slupe was born in Pennsylvania, where his father died when he was seven years of age and when brought to Columbiana County by neighbors, he was an orphan. He grew to manhood there and finally bought a tract of thirteen acres of land. He married Anna Shatter there, who was also born in Pennsylvania, and in the fall of 1844 they moved to Seneca County, O., where he died in 1866. He first purchased forty acres of land fourteen miles southeast of Tiffin and later added forty

acres, owning eighty acres when he died, the greater part of it being timber land. His widow moved from Seneca to Hancock County and later to Putnam, where she died at the home of a daughter, in 1875. Of their nine children, Jacob was the eldest, the others being as follows: Elizabeth, who was the wife of David Metzler and both died in Indiana; Samuel, who lived and died on a farm adjoining that of Jacob Slupe, and married Sarah Ewing, who is also deceased; Martha, who was the wife of John Huffman, and died in Cleveland, O.; Mary, who was the wife of David Van Sickle, and died in Putnam County, as did her husband, they expiring within thirty-six hours of each other; Nancy, who is the widow of Adam Cosner, and resides in Putnam County; Hannah, who died in Elkhart County, Ind., was the wife of John Felthouse; and Solomon and Noah, twins, both of whom survive. Solomon is a farmer in Putnam County and married Lillie Edgington. Noah has never married and for twenty-nine years has lived at Kansas City, where he is a carpenter and contractor.

Jacob Slupe's first instruction at school was confined to the German alphabet but later he was taught English and gained a fair district school education in Seneca County. In the fall of 1856 he was married and then bought forty acres of land situated eighty rods from the Portage Township line in Pleasant Township, which he later sold and subsequently repurchased. Four acres had been cleared and a cabin was on the place. Mr. Slupe has been a shrewd handler of farm property and several of his purchases have changed hands profitably several times. He bought eighty acres of William Bennett and sold the same two years later and bought John Wesley Smith's farm, one and three-quarter miles west, which he sold in 1864. In 1865 he purchased 120 acres and after he finished paying for this, purchased eighty more acres, of Jona Robinson, and 120 acres of William Hilkert. A small structure was on this land but in 1872 Mr. Slupe built his fine brick residence and a substantial barn but the latter was destroyed by fire and the present barn took its place. In all his operations Mr. Slupe showed patience and good judgment. When he acquired this land a large part of it was under water, scarcely any attempt having been made to drain it. He first put in lumber drains but later put down tile and converted all the waste land into rich soil and has now one of the most productive farms in Pleasant Township. Mr. Slupe is a self made man and all he owns he has earned through his own efforts. He is a carpenter by trade and when he first came to this section did a large amount of building and many of the houses and barns standing in Pleasant Township were put up by him. He witnessed many changes in the fifty-three years he has been a resident of Pleasant Township and has done his full share in bringing about improvements.

In the fall of 1856, Mr. Slupe was married to Miss Catherine Bechtel, who died in 1859. She was a daughter of Andrew K. Bechtel. One daughter was born to that marriage, Emma Jane, who died when four years old. Mr. Slupe was married a second time to a widow, Mrs. Eliza Shilling, who was a daughter of Joseph Kinsey, of Seneca County. She was a most estimable woman and was beloved by all who knew her. Her

death occurred January 3, 1909, when she was aged seventy-three years, seven months and five days. Three daughters and one son were born to the second union, namely: Laura E., who is the wife of E. M. Orwig, and they have two children, Charles and Esta; Ida, who is the wife of Willard G. Haley, of near McComb, and they have children: Maud, Kale, Alice, George and Ruth; Simon Sylvester, who died at the age of ten years; and Ella, who is the wife of George C. Robinson, who assists Mr. Slupe in farming, and they have one son, Ralph J. Nominally Mr. Slupe is a Democrat but in local elections he usually uses his own good judgment and supports the man he considers best qualified for the office sought. For himself, Mr. Slupe desires no political prominence.

KARG BROS.,* a representative business firm of Findlay, Ohio, made up of three brothers, Fred J., Charles A. and Albert E. Karg, own and operate two meat markets and thus control a large part of the meat trade of the city, and also own a valuable farm of 160 acres in Marion Township, Hancock County. The meat business was established by their father, the late August Karg, who was the pioneer in this line at Findlay.

August Karg was born in Germany and after his school attendance was over he learned the butchering trade and worked at it in his own land for several years afterward. He then came to America and remained in the city of New York until 1850, when he came to Findlay, his sole capital at that time being $26, and the clothing he wore, having had the misfortune to be robbed of all his belongings while on a Lake Erie boat, at some point between Dunkirk, New York, and Sandusky, Ohio. Although he returned to Dunkirk and made inquiries, he was never able to regain possession of his effects. The loss was a more or less serious one to him at the time but it did not cause him to change his plans about going into business at Findlay, and in the same year he opened his shop and the present business is a continuance of the one he then founded. He became well known all over Hancock County and in early days it was his custom to do his own buying from farmers and they soon learned that while he was a shrewd business man he was always an honest one. He was thus held in universal respect. He remained at the head of the business until 1880, when he retired and turned his interests over to his four sons. His death occurred in September, 1904, and all of his seven children still survive, namely: Mrs. Elizabeth Klentsche, Fred J., August, Jr., Charles A., Mrs. Minnie Hull, Albert E. and William D.

Fred J. Karg was born at Findlay, September 4, 1854, and was educated in the public schools. When fifteen years old he entered his father's shop and learned the business. He married Miss Eliza A. Mills and they have one child, Eva. Mr. Karg is a member of the Knights of Pythias.

Charles A. Karg was born at Findlay, Ohio, January 13, 1860, and he gained his education in the Findlay schools. When fifteen years of age he went into his father's shop and learned the business with which he has been identified ever since. He married Miss Mary Best and they have three children, Carl, Fred and Esther. He is a

member of the Knights of Pythias and the order of Ben Hur.

Albert E. Karg, the third member of the firm of Karg Bros., was born at Findlay, August 18, 1865, and after he was through with school he also entered his father's shop and learned the meat business. He married Miss Mollie Reimund and they have two children, Inez and Earl A. He is a member of the Knights of Pythias.

The present owners of the Karg Bros.' meat markets took charge in 1880, the fourth brother at that time having an interest which he sold in 1888. In 1887 the firm bought a farm of 160 acres in Marion Township and their slaughter-house it situated there, as they kill and dress all the meats they handle. They operate one store at No. 233 South Main Street and another at No. 229 North Main Street, their refrigerating and cooling plant being attached to the former store. They are all practical butchers and men of business capacity of a high order, men well qualified to handle an important and necessary part of a city's food supply.

DOUGLAS SPITLER, a prominent farmer and highly respected citizen of Allen Township, Hancock County, O., is the owner, with his wife, of 560 acres of productive farm land in Allen and Portage Townships, and resides on a tract of 162 acres just west of Van Buren, O. He was born January 15, 1858, on his present farm, which is the old Spitler homestead, and is a son of Samuel and Anna (Bretz) Spitler, both of whom were natives of Fairfield County, O. His parents were married in Fairfield County, and later moved to Crawford County, O., and in 1842 located on our subject's present farm, where they resided until the time of their death, his occurring September 26, 1886, and hers January 2, 1888.

Douglas Spitler has spent his entire life on his present farm and attended the schools of this district. He has always followed farming in a general way, and is one of the leading and influential agriculturists of the township.

Mr. Spitler was united in marriage with Lucy Rader, who was born in Pleasant Township, Hancock County, O., a daughter of Adam and Amelia Rader, prominent farmers of Allen Township, who resided on an adjoining farm. The father died in October, 1907, and the mother died December 31, 1902. The following children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Spitler: Sylvia, who is the wife of Perry Dove, and the mother of two children—Virgil and Elsie; Anna, who married L. W. Baker, and they have one child, Burdette; Virgie; Troy; Florence, who married Clifford Davis and they have one son, Paul; and Clyde, and Harold. Mr. Spitler is a member and a trustee of the United Brethren church of Van Buren, O. His fraternal affiliation is with the Maccabees. Politically he is a Democrat, and he has served two terms as township clerk, two terms as township assessor, and the same length of time as trustee of Allen Township. Mr. Spitler and family reside in a fine frame dwelling which was erected in 1908, and he has also built three fine barns on the home place. Mr. Spitler's land is divided into six separate farms, four of which are located in Allen Township and two in Portage Township.

A. L. WORDEN, who owns 400 acres of fine farming land which is situated in Section 7, Liberty Township, Hancock County,

Ohio, was born on this farm which has always been in the Worden name since it was secured from the Government. He is a son of A. C. and Rachel (Hall) Worden.

A. C. Worden was born at Albany, New York, and was the only child of Robert D. and Sally Worden, the former of whom died in 1819, when his son was but one year old. His widow returned to her own people in Champaign County, Ohio, where she continued to reside until her death in 1879. A. C. Worden obtained his education in the Findlay schools and then engaged in farming in Liberty Township, securing wild land which he cleared himself and at one time owned 353 acres. He improved his property and all the buildings now standing were erected during his lifetime. His death occurred March 19, 1891, and his burial was in the Worden Cemetery. He married Rachel Hall, who died January 17, 1892. Her father was Absolom Hall, a native of Harrison County, Ohio, and sixteen children were born to this marriage, four of whom still survive: Sally, who is the wife of C. G. Moore, and lives in Liberty Township; Robert B., who makes his home with his brother, A. L.; Sylvia S., who is the wife of J. A. Green, of Montana; and A. L. The father and mother of the above family were members of the Presbyterian church.

A. L. Worden was reared in Liberty Township and obtained his education here and has always lived on the homestead. He carries on farming and stock raising and is one of the representative agriculturists of this section. On account of his many farm interests he finds little time to devote to politics but he keeps thoroughly posted on all public questions and casts his vote carefully and intelligently. He is identified with the Republican party.

Mr. Worden was married (first) to Miss Sophia Teasworth, a daughter of Isaac and Mary Teasworth, of Liberty Township, and she left one child, Claude L., who married Effie Hickeson, a daughter of Frank and Esther Hickeson. Mr. Worden was married second to Mrs. Daisy (Taylor) Roys, who is a daughter of Ellis C. and Katherine (Harris) Taylor. She has one son, Edwin O. Roys, who resides at Toledo, Ohio. He married Jessie St. Claire.

The Taylors were early settlers in Champaign County, Ohio. The grandparents of Mrs. Worden were Levi and Sally (Chamberlain) Taylor, the former of whom was born in Virginia and the latter in New York. They had nine children. Ellis C. Taylor, father of Mrs. Worden, was born in Champaign County, Ohio, December 9, 1832, and died at New Carlisle, Indiana, September 4, 1903. He attended school at Findlay and was married at the age of twenty-four years to Miss Katherine Harris, a daughter of Dr. and Charlotte (Cumpton) Harris. Six children were born to this marriage: Charles L., who is now deceased; Emma C.; Annabel; Edward W.; Daisy, who is the wife of A. L. Worden; and Harris C., of New Carlisle. The mother of the above family died at New Carlisle, Indiana, October 20, 1894. She was active in the Disciple church.

After marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Taylor continued to reside for a time in Champaign County, where he was a merchant. They then moved to Michigan and from there to New Carlisle, Indiana, where he continued merchandising during the remainder of his

life. He became a man of high standing there and was considered a very able business man as well, being active in the Masonic lodge and also in the Disciples church. He was a Republican in politics and was city treasurer for thirty-four years.

JACOB LINE, attorney at law and in the enjoyment of an excellent practice, at Mt. Blanchard, Ohio, was born in Eagle Township, Hancock County, Ohio, February 27, 1870, and is the fifth of a family of ten children. His parents, Peter and Mary B. (Jewett) Line, both of whom are deceased, were pioneers of Eagle Township where his father was a well known school teacher, farmer and tile manufacturer.

Jacob Line spent his early life at home working for his father on the farm and in the tile factory, attending the rural school during the winter months. In 1890 he became a student in Findlay College and for several years he taught school, attended college and read law. In 1895 he entered the law department of the Ohio Northern University at Ada, Ohio, where he completed the course of law and took his Bachelor of Law Degree. October 15, 1896, he was admitted to the bar before the Supreme Court of Ohio. He now practices before the State and Federal Courts.

August 26, 1902, Mr. Line was married to Miss Clare Hammond, daughter of M. G. and Ruth G. Hammond, of Mt. Blanchard, and they have one daughter, Mary Ruth. In politics Mr. Line is a Democrat. He has held the office of city solicitor for eight years and served the village in other offices.

He is interested in fraternal organizations, being identified as Past Grand in Comet Lodge No. 344, I. O. O. F., Past Chancellor of Mt. Blanchard Lodge No. 481, Knights of Pythias, and Past Master of Mt. Blanchard Lodge No. 519, Free and Accepted Masons. He, also, is a member of the ladies' auxiliary lodges. He is considered one of the town's representative citizens. He was one of the promoters and is interested in the Citizens' Bank of Mt. Blanchard.

CHARLES DAVIS*, senior member of the well known grocery firm of Charles Davis & Company, who are located at No. 212 South Main Street, Findlay, Ohio, was born October 31, 1864, at Findlay, Ohio, and is a son of William L. and Mary (Thompson) Davis.

William L. Davis was born on a farm in Marion Township, Hancock County, Ohio, a son of Squire William Davis, who was a native of Cumberland, Maryland, and one of the pioneers of Hancock County. His father entered land from the government, blazed the trail from Findlay to Tiffin, Ohio, and subsequently bought more land, owning at the time of his death 520 acres. William L. Davis was reared on the farm, and when a young man went to Celina, Mercer County, Ohio, where he engaged in buying and selling furs with his uncle Abner Davis. In 1859 he married Miss Mary Thompson of Celina and two years later returned to Findlay, where in October of 1861 he established the grocery store now operated by our subject. The firm was known as William Davis & Company, he having taken in as partners, his brothers John W. and David T. and Martin L. Detwiler, and he continued in that business until the time of his death in 1877. In 1870 he erected a store room and in

1876 he enlarged the block, building around and above the store room, building what was known as the Davis Opera House, which was the first opera house or theatre in Findlay, although there had been several halls where small entertainments could be given. The first attraction to appear at the Davis Opera House was the well known play, East Lynne. The mother of our subject died in 1875.

Charles Davis was reared to manhood in Findlay and in 1884 went to Fostoria, where his guardian, Charles W. Davis, had entered the wholesale grocery business with Charles Foster, who was Governor of Ohio. After finishing in the grammar schools of Fostoria he attended a militaryAcademy in the east, then attended Cornell University until some time during his senior year, when he returned to become a member of the wholesale grocery firm at Fostoria. This firm subsequently failed and Mr. Davis went to Toledo, Ohio, where he entered the commission and brokerage business, and since May, 1906, he has been engaged in his present business at Findlay.

Mr. Davis was married to Emma V. Blecker of Findlay and they have one child, William Henry Davis. The family reside at No. 868 South Main Street. Mr. Davis is well known in military circles of Northwestern Ohio, having served for ten years as Captain of Co. A, Second Ohio National Guards. He is also a member of the B. P. O. E. and Ben Hur orders.

ELISHA TODD, now living retired at McComb, O., is one of the best known and most highly esteemed citizens of Pleasant Township, where about seventy-seven years of his long and useful life have been passed. He was born in Franklin County, O., eight miles east of Columbus, November 15, 1824. His parents were Benjamin and Catherine (Kalb) Todd.

Benjamin Todd was born at Baltimore County, Md., in 1792, and died in McComb, Hancock County, O., March 1, 1882. Between 1800 and 1810 he accompanied his parents, John and Mary Todd, to Ohio, they being pioneers in Franklin County. John Todd was a wagonmaker, and it is recorded that he followed his trade until the close of his life, evidently being a man of skill to have successfully constructed vehicles that could be satisfactorily used in the rough forest roads that then were the only transportation lines in the wild region. He was twice married, his first wife bearing the name of Mary Jarmin, and his second being Catherine Huff. To his first union were born: Benjamin, Joseph, Jesse, John, William, Thomas W., Mary, Elizabeth, Susan and an infant. To the second marriage three children were born: Sarah Ann, Samuel Wesley and Hannah.

In Franklin County, O., Benjamin Todd was married in 1814, to Catherine Kalb, who was born in Maryland August 3, 1795, and died in McComb, Hancock County, O., April 8, 1854. Her parents were George and Mary Kalb, who came early to Franklin County and acquired land there. They had children named as follows: Catherine, John, George, Jeremiah, Isaac, Elizabeth, Annie and Susan. Benjamin Todd followed farming in Franklin County until 1833. In the meanwhile a family was growing up about him and being desirous of properly providing for them, he decided to do as his parents had done before him—push into a yet unsettled region, favorable reports of Hancock County having reached him. In this resolve he was associated with two other old Franklin county residents, and from the same

motives, and in August, 1833, Benjamin Todd, John Needles and Edward Stephenson came to Pleasant Township, they being its first settlers. All entered land, Mr. Todd securing eighty acres, his property being on the site of the present flourishing town of McComb. The whole country at that time was heavily timbered and the three sturdy home seekers had no difficulty in securing logs with which to erect cabins on their selected farms. With this provision made for the comfort of their families in the approaching winter, they returned to Franklin County and prepared to make the journey to the new home. This was so momentous an event that it impressed itself on the mind of the nine-year old son, Elisha, so clearly that he can recall all its details after the passage of seventy-seven years. The family started from Franklin County on November 12, 1833, their belongings carefully packed for the long journey—probably in a wagon made by the grandfather—and five days later reached the pioneer home in Pleasant Township. Mr. Todd also recalls that he was suffering at that time from a not unusual malady, the every-other-day ague, a distressing complaint that more or less prevailed among all pioneer settlers and which no doubt was the result of miasmatic conditions. Mr. Todd remembers the remarkable display of meteors which took place on the night of November 13, 1833, the nature of which was not then as scientifically explained as at the present day. As quickly as possible enough land was cleared before the ground froze, to get in a small crop but it took many years before the timber was all cleared off and the farm made profitable for tillage.

To Benjamin and Catherine Todd the following children were born: Mary, John, George, Margaret, Elisha, Benjamin Asbury, Susan Jane, William H., Delilah and Sarah Catherine. Mary married Philip Shumaker, who is deceased. She was born in Franklin County, as were seven others. John Todd married Christiana Shumaker and they lived near McComb until 1854, when he started for Iowa, but was prostrated with typhoid fever on the way and died at Joliet, Ill., his family continuing to Iowa in the following spring. George Todd married Rachel Needles and spent all but the last ten years of his life at McComb, dying in Iowa. Margaret married Alexander Harkness and they lived in Ohio until 1854, when they moved to Iowa, where both died. Benjamin A. Todd for the past thirty-seven years has been a resident of Lawrence, Kans. He is a retired minister, teacher and farmer. He married Sarah Edgar. William H. Todd spent his life in Pleasant Township and died at McComb. He married Eliza Gault. Delilah Ann married John W. Todd and soon after marriage they moved to Iowa and died there. Sarah Catherine married Joseph Bixby and they moved to Nebraska and died there.

Elisha Todd had but meager educational opportunities after coming to Hancock County and he was fourteen years old before the township had a district school. He worked on the farm and took part in the social festivities that testified to neighborhood good will, married and became a quiet, industrious, law abiding citizen. Conditions changed as the country became settled and by 1847 the first lots for the building of McComb were laid out on his father's farm. As the site of a town, this land became exceedingly valuable; much of the farm was subsequently absorbed and where once stood giants of the forest, as Mr. Todd recalls, there are now streets busy with traffic

or structures devoted to the housing of hundreds of people and to their schools and churches. He has watched all these changes with the keenest interest and for some years after his return from the army, he assisted practically in this development, following carpentering and building.

Mr. Todd was thirty-seven years of age when the Civil War broke out, and in August, 1862, at Findlay, he enlisted as a soldier in the Union army, becoming a member of Co. D, 99th O. Vol. Inf., under Capt. A. J. Pope. The first battle in which he took part was that of Stone River and the last one was the battle of Nashville. His division went as far as Atlanta and returned from there with Gen. Thomas and following the battle of Nashville, his regiment was sent to North Carolina. He took part in the battle of Chickamauga and in many others and he remained in the service until the close of the war and was honorably discharged at Camp Dennison, O., July 17, 1865. He was twice wounded but not seriously. He is a member of John Howard Post, No. 154, at McComb, O.

In 1847 Mr. Todd was married to Miss Edith Harkness, who died without issue in 1851. In 1853 he was married to Miss Mary Gault, a daughter of Moses and Rachel Gault, and to this marriage the following children were born, Martha, Sylvester B., Sanford, Rachel Catherine, Benjamin M., Ulysses, Terry T., Mary and Rufus S. Martha married E. C. Kelly and they live three and one-half miles southwest of McComb. They have six children: Earle, A. C., Clyde, May, Eunice and Carl. Sylvester B. Todd is a farmer residing in Sandusky County. He married Tilda Broy and they have four children, Annie, Mina, Ira Glenn and Estella. Sanford Todd died after reaching manhood. Rachel Catherine is now deceased. She was the wife of Doc Montgomery of Portage Township. Benjamin M. Todd has spent the larger part of his life at McComb, where he follows the plastering trade. Ulysses is a carpenter by trade and resides at Toledo. He married Della McCreary. Terry T. Todd is a carpenter and architect and has resided as Los Angeles, Cal., since February, 1905. He is married and they have one daughter, Margaret Pauline. Mary is the wife of Raleigh Lano, a brick mason and contractor, and they live at Port Clinton, O., and have two children, Terry and Herbin. Rufus S. Todd is a carpenter and in business at Findlay, O. He married Lucinda Gibson. The mother of the above family died in 1902.

Mr. Todd no longer takes any active part in town matters but formerly was a leading public citizen. In politics he is a Democrat. He has been mayor of McComb, a member of the town council, a justice of the peace, township supervisor and served five years as assessor in Pleasant Township. Among his early recollections are the following, which will be of interest to many readers:

"The first schoolhouse in Pleasant Township was built in 1838; the first teacher, Samuel Bowman. Only three months' winter terms were taught during my school age. The first mill for manufacturing flour or meal was a horse-mill. The first religious society in the township was organized in 1834 in my father's cabin house by the M. E. church. The first church house in McComb was built in 1850 by the M. E. church. At the first election when the township of Pleasant was organized there were only twelve voters."

JOSHUA NEISWANDER, member of the Van Buren Township School Board and a well known farmer and carpenter, owns seventy acres of well tilled land situated in Section 29, Van Buren Township, Hancock County, O. He was born January 4, 1857, in Richland Township, Allen County, O., and is a son of Michael and Fannie (Geiger) Neiswander.

Michael Neiswander was born in 1822, on the Atlantic Ocean, during the voyage of his parents from Germany to America. His parents settled in Wayne County, O., where they lived until 1832, when they removed to Richland Township, Allen County and there Michael Neiswander grew to manhood and married Fannie Geiger. He acquired 240 acres of land and devoted his lifelong efforts to its cultivation and improvement. This farm is still in the family. Michael Neiswander was a Democrat in politics but for the last fifteen years of his life, took little interest in outside affairs. Both he and wife were members of the Mennonite church. His death occurred when he was over seventy years of age and that of his wife when she was seventy-six, and both were interred on the home farm west of Bluffton, O. They were good people who were long held in respectful memory by those who knew them.

Joshua Neiswander attended a German school in Richland Township until he was about fifteen years of age, when he learned English. After his school days were over he helped his father and gradually became a well balanced and intelligent farmer himself and after his marriage he came to his present farm, which he bought from John Freed, clearing twenty-five acres of it, draining a large part of it and still having six acres in wood land. Being a carpenter as well as a farmer, he began to put up first class buildings on his place and all those now standing he erected.

In the fall of 1880, Mr. Neiswander was married to Miss Susan Blosser, whose father died of smallpox when she was small. Mr. and Mrs. Neiswander have nine children, namely: Harry A., who is a medical student at Cleveland, married Rosella Spacht, of Van Buren Township; Lois, who is the wife of J. M. Bushong, of Van Buren Township; Leo, who attends the Ohio Normal School at Ada, O.; Estella, who is a popular public school teacher at Jenera, O.; Claude, who is in his third term in the Ada High School; and Edgar, Byron, Ralph, and Una, all at home. In politics, Mr. Neiswander has always been a Democrat. He has frequently been elected to township offices and for two terms was township trustee and is now serving in his second year as president of the township school board. He is a representative citizen of Van Buren Township.

HON. JAMES B. WALKER,* who served two terms as mayor of the city of Findlay, O., is a leading citizen of Hancock County, and is also an honored veteran of the great Civil War. Mr. Walker was born in Pennsylvania, November 3, 1840, and is a son of James B. and Maria (Adams) Walker, the former of whom was a native of Vermont, but died in Pennsylvania.

James B. Walker obtained his education in his native state and probably would have become a millwright, as was his father, had not the Civil War been precipitated about the time he should have chosen a trade or profession, and perhaps that was all the more fortunate for the people of Findlay, as it was the pursuit of the business he subsequently engaged in,

that brought him to Ohio. In April, 1861, in answer to the first call, Mr. Walker enlisted in Company D, 1st Pa. Vol. Inf., the famous "Bucktails," and continued in the service for three years, after being three times wounded being transferred to the Veteran Reserve Corps, May 21, 1864. He is a valued member of the G. A. R. Post at Findlay, where often his old comrades recall with him the sharp engagement at New Market Cross Roads, where his first wound was received; the second battle of Bull Run, when he was again unfortunate, and at South Mountain, where his third wound was received and many of his regiment fell by his side.

Mr. Walker returned to his home in Pennsylvania and soon afterward became interested in the oil business and continued this interest after coming to Hancock County in 1888. He has taken an active part in politics in city and county and his leadership was recognized first when he was elected on the Democratic ticket, in 1906, to Findlay's highest municipal office, and his administration was approved as was evinced by his re-election by a majority of 600 votes. Mr. Walker has a pleasant home and handsome residence at No. 217 East Main Cross Street, Findlay. He married Miss Elizabeth McGill, a daughter of James McGill, and they have three sons. Mr. Walker is a Mason.

HENRY BENTON THOMAS, who enjoys the distinction of being the oldest born native white child in Pleasant Township, Hancock County, O., a member of one of the oldest township families and an honored survivor of the great Civil War, has lived a busy and useful life and is a man of very interesting personality. He was born on the old Thomas farm on which he lives, September 1, 1837, and is a son of Jacob and Rebecca (Edginton) Thomas.

The paternal grandparents of Mr. Thomas were Charles and Mary (Ripley) Thomas. Charles Thomas was born in Virginia and his father was a native of Pennsylvania. Grandfather Thomas and wife settled in Marion Township, Hancok County, when they came to Ohio from Virginia, they died there, and their burial was on the old farm. They had seven children and of these the father of Henry B. Thomas was the eldest. A number of the others have descendants in this section. Nancy married Robert Hamilton and both died at Findlay. Eliza was the wife of David Henline. John married Nancy Ankrom and he and wife lived and died near the Thomas Church. Daniel married Lucy Ann George and they lived east of Findlay, where he died. George first married Catherine Paden, then Mary Paden and they lived and died on their farm three miles east of Findlay. William married Sidna Paden, a sister of Catherine and Mary Paden, and lived the greater part of his life on the home farm which he later sold and moved to Findlay, where he died. Narcissa married a Mr. Bennett and they lived and died at Bryan, in Williams County.

Jacob Thomas, father of Henry Benton, was born in 1810, in Tyler County, Va., and died in Pleasant Township, April 2nd, 1878. He accompanied his parents to Ohio in 1832 and with them settled in Section 16, Marion Township, Hancock County, and remained two years longer with his father. In 1837 he came to the farm now owned by his son, Henry B., which has never since been out of the Thomas family. At the time of his death he owned 240 acres. Pioneer conditions prevailed when Jacob Thomas came to Pleasant Township. The land

was heavily timbered and not a stick had ever been cut. There was not much chance for sociability as the other nearest settler was several miles away. The first log cabin had dimensions of 12 x 14 feet but a second house was built in the same fall, 16 x 18 feet, of hewed logs and with a clap-board roof.

Jacob Thomas was twice married. His first wife was Rebecca Edginton, and his second was Elizabeth Gorrell. Four children were born to the first union: Mary Jane, May 28, 1835; Henry Benton, September 1, 1837; Levi Marion, October 13, 1839; and Julia Ann, July 27, 1843. Mary Jane married Peter Deter (died January 11, 1900) whom she survives and lives in Portage Township. Levi Marion married Mary C. Wilson. He lived near North Baltimore, where he followed farming. He was a soldier in the Civil War, a member of Co. G, 21st O. Vol. Inf., and was captured with his comrades, at Chickamauga. He died May 11, 1906. Julia Ann married John W. Butler, formerly of Pleasant Township, but a resident of Findlay before his death. She resides on Center Street in that city. The children born to the second marriage of Jacob Thomas were: William C., February 12, 1848; Caroline, September 4, 1846; David H., January 6, 1852; Cyrene, January 13, 1850; and Amanda April 30, 1859 (died July 22, 1899). William C. Thomas holds the positon of captain in the Soldiers' Home at Dayton, O. He served in the Civil War in the 178th O. Vol. Inf. He has been twice married, first to Barbara E. Nye and second to Belle Lathonce, of Columbus, O. Caroline married Hon. Eb. Poe, late of Columbus, and formerly state auditor of Ohio. David H. Thomas formerly resided in Pleasant Township but is now engaged in mining in the West. He married Columbia J. Bowman. Cyrene married J. F. Dillinger and they own a farm near Hoytsville, O., but reside in Dayton. Amanda, who is now deceased, was the wife of Corwin Wilson, who survives her and lives near North Baltimore, O.

Henry Benton Thomas grew up on the home farm and obtained a district school education. He worked on his father's and his uncle's farms, the latter living then east of Findlay. He was a member of an independent military company which had been organized in 1861, at McComb. They went to Findlay and there he formally enlisted for service in the Civil War, on September 19, 1861. His regiment was sent first to Camp Dennison, at Columbus, and from there to Piketown, Ky., and from there to Louisville and he was on guard duty at Lexington, Murfreesboro, Tenn., and other points and then went to Nashville, Tenn. Later he was a participant in the battle of Stone River and was at Lookout Mountain and Chattanooga, Graysville, Kenesaw Mountain and Atlanta. He celebrated his birthday in September, 1863, by fighting in the battle at Jonesboro, Ga. He belonged also to the victorious army that marched with Sherman to the sea. Other engagements in which he bore a brave soldier's part were Raleigh, Goldsboro and Martha's Vineyard, on New River, N. C., and then came Richmond and later the grand review at Washington, D. C., and he was finally mustered out at Columbus, O. Mr. Thomas saw very hard service and the word soldier recalls to him the sternest kind of discipline and scenes of carnage and suffering that he hopes his country will never again witness.

Mr. Thomas returned to Hancock County practically unharmed after his military service was over. His father had given him eighty acres of land in Pleasant Township and to this

he added eighty more. In 1878 he sold this land and moved to Saline County, Kas., where he spent one year in agricultural efforts, but his success was not up to his expectations and his crops were entirely destroyed by the hot winds. In the meanwhile his father had died and so he returned to Pleasant Township and here he has continued to live ever since. The house in which Mr. Thomas and family had lived since their return to the old homestead, was destroyed by fire and the present handsome residence was erected in 1901. Mr. Thomas has 116 acres under cultivation, this farm being one of the best in the township.

October 4, 1866, Mr. Thomas was married to Miss Ruthanna Archer, a daughter of Henry and Lucinda (Osenbaugh) Archer, of Mercer County, O. Six children were born to them, namely:

Mary Orlida, born July 9, 1867; married Willis Mygrants, April 9, 1898; they live in Jackson, Mich. They have three children—Warren, born March 11, 1899; Russell, born September 12, 1900; Cliffton, born October 30, 1905.

Minnie L., born October 4, 1868; married Chester Ewing of McComb, December 6, 1899. They have three children—Lois, born May 30, 1901; Webster, born March 5, 1903; and Arthur, born April 21, 1906.

Delos Archer was born December 13, 1869; was married to Belle Norris of Cass Township (where they have since resided), September 5, 1894. They have three children—Gayle, born September 4, 1895; Bernard, born January 25, 1900, and Raymond, born September 8, 1903.

Estella J., was born October 31, 1871; was married to Fred King, January 23, 1896, and they have two children—Ralph, born February 10, 1897, and Iloe, born September 21, 1900.

Sarah Elizabeth and Laura Leota, who reside with their parents.

Mr. Thomas and family were members of the Thomas Methodist Episcopal church, in which he formerly was an official. For the past twenty-five years he has maintained opinions that identify him with the Prohibiton party, but formerly he was a Democrat. He served a number of times as township trustee and was active generally in public affairs. He is a member of John Howard Post, No. 154, G. A. R. at McComb.

WILLIAM H. ADELSPERGER, who is engaged in general farming and stock raising on Elm Wood farm, is the owner of 390 acres of fine farming land, located in Sections 10 and 13, Big Lick Township, Hancock County, Ohio, and is one of the representative agriculturists of the county. He was born June 22, 1842, in Tiffin, Seneca County, Ohio, and is a son of John and Cinderella (Ricketts) Adelsperger, and a grandson of Jacob Adelsperger, who was a native of Hagerstown, Md.

John Adelsperger, father of our subject, was born in Hagerstown, Md., and during his boyhood came to Tiffin, Seneca County, O. He was first married to Cinderella Ricketts, and to them were born three children: William H.; John F., deceased; and Joseph A., deceased. His second union was with Mary Albert, and resulted in the following issue: Mary Jane; Katherine; Amanda; Flora; Nora; Charles; James; Albert; Frank; John, deceased; and Henry.

William H. Adelsperger was reared in Tiffin, Ohio, and there obtained his education in the public schools. In 1861 he enlisted for

three years in the 49th Ohio Vol. Inf., and was with the Army of the Cumberland in Tennessee, Alabama and Georgia. He later enlisted with the 64th Ohio Vol. Inf., for one year, and participated in many of the important battles of the war, his last two fights being the battles at Franklin and Nashville. He was not sick a day during his entire four years' service. He was taken prisoner at Stone River, and honorably discharged at St. Louis in 1865. After the close of the war he worked at carpentering for six years and in 1871 bought his present farm in Section 10, Big Lick Township, Hancock County, Ohio. He has just completed building a large brick residence on Elm Wood farm, and has one of the finest and best improved farms in the township.

In 1871 Mr. Adelsperger was married to Sophia Kenner, who was born December 25, 1850, in Germany, and at the age of two years came to this country with her parents. Of their union have been born the following children: John, who died aged six years; Minda, who died aged eighteen years; Milton L., who operates Elm Wood Farm, is married and has one child, Clarence; and Joseph A., who farms his father's place in Section 10, Big Lick Township. Mr. Adelsperger is a member of the G. A. R., Morris Post of Fostoria, is politically a Republican, and is now serving as land appraiser, having been elected to that office one year ago.

JOSEPH S. PATTERSON, who for sixty years has been identified with the mercantile interests of Findlay, O., is the senior member of the firm of J. S. Patterson & Sons, a business which had its inception in 1849, stands today as one of the representatives of the highest standard of business integrity. The activities in which he has been engaged for so long a time and with so much ability, have had an effective part in the commercial and financial upbuilding of this city. Joseph S. Patterson was born November 25, 1827, at Bellefontaine, Logan County, Ohio, and is a son of Robert and Eliza (Moore) Patterson, and a grandson of Rev. James Patterson, who was a clergyman of Ballee, County Down, Ireland.

Although the Pattersons originated in Ireland, for a generation they have been American and in almost every State of the Union, bearers of this honorable name have been distinguished in some walk of life.

Robert Patterson, father of Joseph S., was born in 1789, in Ireland. In 1811 he came to Licking County, O., one of the venturesome pioneers, but he later established his permanent home at Bellefontaine, in Logan County, where he was engaged in mercantile pursuits until his death in 1867. In 1819 he was married to Eliza Moore, a daughter of Joseph Moore, also a pioneer, and they had nine children born to them, the fifth in order of birth being given the name of Joseph S., and he is one of the two survivors.

Joseph S. Patterson attended school at Bellefontaine until he was sixteen years of age, leaving home at that time with the intention of providing for his own necessities and of preparing himself to do so in the future by learning a special line, heredity, perhaps, having something to do with his choice. He came to Findlay in 1843, where he found employment as a clerk with Frederick Henderson, with whom he continued for six years, when he purchased an interest in the business and it was continued under the firm name of Henderson and Patterson. Three years later the business was reorganized and additional capital gave

the concern larger and more extended facilities, and the firm name then became J. S. Patterson and Company, remaining that way until 1857.

In the above year, Mr. Patterson retired and purchased the business of Van Eman and Company. Two years later, Milton Taylor, a brother-in-law, became associated with him under the firm name of Patterson and Taylor. This firm continued until the withdrawal of Mr. Taylor in 1865.

In 1866 Mr. Patterson built his present business block, moving into it early in 1867. From 1870 to 1875 the firm name was Patterson and Winders.

In 1878, Chas. W. Patterson, his eldest son, became interested under the firm name of J. S. Patterson and Son.

Five years later, Frank T. Patterson, the second son, was taken into the firm, when the name became J. S. Patterson & Sons and has so continued to the present time.

With the exception of one year during which he was local agent for the Mad River and Lake Erie R. R., for sixty years and over, Mr. Patterson has been interested in the same line of business and has always been recognized as a keen and able business man.

In 1853 Mr. Patterson was married to Minerva Taylor, a daughter of Wm. and Margaret Taylor, one of the early pioneer families. For years, they enjoyed one of Findlay's handsomest homes at No. 823 South Main Street. Two sons were born to them, Charles W. and Frank T. Patterson.

In religious matters, Mr. Patterson has always taken an active interest. His affiliation has been with the Presbyterian denomination, of which church he is an elder as well as a liberal supporter.

As a charter member of the City Y. M. C. A., he was always interested in its work and contributed liberally towards its present building and equipment.

Politically, Mr. Patterson has always been a Republican. He never aspired to office and never held but one office, that of city councilman and that as a matter of duty.

JASPER DUKES,* one of Blanchard Township's most substantial citizens, a large dealer in livestock and the owner of 700 acres of valuable land, was born in Union Township, Hancock County, O., in January, 1850. His parents were D. R. and Eliza Jane (McDowell) Dukes.

D. R. Dukes was born in Franklin County, O., and when he came to Hancock County and entered 160 acres of land from the Government, he had not more than reached his majority. He continued to live on this land for more than twenty years, but in 1864 he moved to a farm on the Ridge road and was residing there at the time of his death, which occurred when he was aged seventy-six years. Of his 160 acres he had cleared 100 of it and was considered a sensible and judicious farmer. His first wife was named Miller and four children were born to that union. His second marriage was to Eliza Jane McDowell, who was born in Licking County, O., of Irish parentage. Nine children were born to this marriage, as follows: Laura, who is the widow of Mr. Comley; Jasper and Irwin, twins, the latter of whom died at the age of fifteen years; Naretta, who is the wife of J. S. Renhart, of Findlay; Elizabeth, Caroline and Richard, all of whom died when about five years of age; and two that died in infancy. D. R. Dukes and wife

were members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

Jasper Dukes attended the public schools in Union Township and then became his father's main helper on the farm, and after his marriage, in 1875, started for himself on 160 acres of his present farm. To the original acres he added, purchasing two tracts of eighty acres each, one of fifty and two others each containing 165 acres, until he now owns 700 acres of land, all in one body. Since 1872 he has done a large amount of business handling livestock, his purchases and shipments annually reaching into thousands of dollars. Mr. Dukes has not torn down the old house in which he first went to housekeeping, but in recent years he has erected one of the handsomest rural homes in Blanchard Township and has put up other substantial buildings, having five sets of farm structures on his land. He has otherwise improved his property, taking a great deal of interest in it and is the practical overseer of all the farm operations.

In March, 1875, Mr. Dukes was married to Miss Maria M. Hopkins, a daughter of M. E. Hopkins, of Blanchard Township, and they have six children: Nora D., who is the wife of Frank Wineman, resides in Blanchard Township, Putnam County, O.; Floyd J. and Claud A., twins, the former of whom married Carrie McClelland, a daughter of B. F. McClelland, of Eagle Township, and the latter of whom married Bertha Thomas, a daughter of J. W. Thomas, of Putnam County; D. R., who married a daughter of William Miller, of Putnam County, and they have two children; and Eli V. and L. P., the latter of whom is a student at Findlay College. As was his father, Mr. Dukes is a Republican. He served three years as township trustee and two years as assessor. He is identified with the order of Elks, at Findlay.

HON. WILLIS E. COOPER, formerly mayor of McComb, O., and a leading member of the Hancock County bar, was born just east of this town, in Pleasant Township, Hancock County, O., November 16, 1868, and is a son of Allen and Rebecca A. (Ritter) Cooper.

Allen Cooper was born in Portage Township, Hancock County, O., in 1834, the first white male child born in the township. His father was John Cooper, who came from Perry County, O., and entered eighty acres of land in Portage Township, Hancock County, in 1832 and lived here until his death when over eighty years of age. He became a man of large estate and at the time of his death, in 1891, he owned 700 acres of valuable land. He was also more or less prominent in public affairs and served as associate justice of Hancock County. He married Eliza Jane Cusac. In 1860, Allen Cooper entered into the saw mill and planing mill business and continued until 1902, when he retired to Findlay, where he and wife live at present, people well known and highly esteemed. He married Rebecca A. Ritter, who was born in Ohio and was small when her parents came to Hancock County. Her father was born in Germany and came to McComb from Stark County, O. He later bought a farm in Hancock County and alternated farming and working at his trade, which was that of a tailor. The children born to Mr. and Mrs. Ritter were: Rebecca, who married Allen Cooper; William C., who lives east of McComb; Thomas J., Gideon and Caroline, all three of whom are deceased. The brothers and sisters of Allen Cooper were: James, who lives at Knoxville, Tenn.; John, who resides north

of Findlay; William P., who was accidentally killed while working in the lumber business; Martha, deceased, who was the wife of John D. Ewing; Sarah, deceased. who was the wife of James Shoemaker; Phebe E., who is the wife of Moses McAnelly, of Big Lick Township, Hancock County, and one that died young. To Allen Cooper and wife eight children were born, as follows: Ida L., who is the wife of H. W. Doty, an attorney of Chattanooga; Willis E.; Joy and Arba, both of whom died in childhood; and four who died in infancy.

Willis E. Cooper was educated at McComb and in 1886, after leaving the McComb High School, he began making his preparations for the study of law and on January 1, 1890, he became a law student under H. Walter Doty, and remained in the office of this well known attorney until January 10, 1893, when he entered the law department of the Ohio State University and creditably passed the required examination for the bar on June 8, 1893. He entered into practice at Findlay and remained there until November 1, 1895, when he came to McComb, at that time purchasing the law and insurance business of ex-Mayor A. D. Whisler. He soon received professional recognition and ere long had become a prominent factor in local politics and in 1897 he was nominated and subsequently elected on the Democratic ticket, mayor of McComb. His administration of the office proved eminently acceptable and he was re-elected in 1899, 1901, 1903 and again in 1905, serving for five successive terms, aggregating ten years and nine months, in the highest municipal office in the gift of his fellow citizens. His personal popularity is unusual and at his first election he overcame the normal Republican majority of forty votes. Since June, 1907, he has served as city solicitor. His line of practice includes general law and abstract work.

Mr. Cooper was married to Miss Bessie D. Bowen, who was born in West Virginia, a daughter of J. W. and Theresa Bowen, and they have two daughters: Dorothy F., a school girl of eleven years; and Catherine Cliff, who has seen but four summers. Mr. Cooper is identified fraternally with McComb Lodge, No. 179, Knights of Pythias; Camp No. 7474, Modern Woodmen of America; and the Tribe of Ben Hur.

CHARLES ERSKINE NILES (deceased), the late president of the First National Bank of Findlay, O., and one of the best known and most respected citizens of Hancock County, was born in Boston, Mass., in 1836. His early years were passed with his parents, in St. Catharines, Ontario, where he received a good education at the grammar school and academy, located in that little city, and later, upon the removal of his family to Hudson, Mich., he completed with great credit a full commercial course in one of the leading mercantile colleges of the country.

Mr. Niles' first business experience was in Cleveland, from which place he went to Ashtabula, O., where he was connected with the old Farmers' Bank, and later he went to Hudson, Mich., where he took a responsible position in the banking house of Boies, Rude & Company, also for a time being interested in the mercantile business.

In the early sixties, Mr. Niles came to Findlay, and with the late E. P. Jones, organized the First National Bank, in the spring of 1863, and he was its cashier for thirty-one years, or up to the time of the death of its president, E.

P. Jones, in 1894, after which time he was president of the institution. In 1895-1896 he was president of the Ohio Bankers' Association. Mr. Niles was one of the best known bankers in the State. "He was an indefatigable worker and was a shrewd observer of men and events. He was at his desk every business day with the regularity of a clock, always immersed in his duties, but never too busy to attend to the wants of a customer, no matter how humble or how inconsiderable his desires. His management of affairs was almost perfection, and his judgment almost infallible. During his long connection with the bank its influence became great, and it was rated among the best conducted and soundest in the land. Confidence in its integrity and standing was never shaken through all the financial storms that swept over the country."

His close application to his duties affected his health, which began to fail a year or more previous to his death. He finally decided to go to Florida for needed rest and recreation, in hopes that he might regain his old-time vigor and strength, and in February, 1908, this resolution was put into effect. Accompanied by his daughter-in-law, he journeyed to Sarasota, said to be an ideal spot, noted for its pure atmosphere, charged with health giving qualities. Mr. Niles and his daughter had been there but a short time when a stroke of paralysis resulted in his utter prostration. He subsequently rallied from this shock, however, and hopes were entertained for his final recovery. When he had become strong enough, it was decided to risk the journey home to Findlay. The start was made, with his wife, daughter and a nurse, but he had scarcely journeyed two hundred miles, just before reaching Jacksonville, when he was stricken with another attack, and died on the train while en route, on Saturday evening, March 28, 1908.

Mr. Niles was seventy-two years old, and had resided in Findlay the greater part of his long, busy and useful life. His widow, and one son, C. F. M. Niles, president of the Security Savings Bank & Trust Company of Toledo, were left to mourn their irreparable loss. Mr. Niles was pre-eminently a domestic man, being rarely seen away from his own fireside, when not attending to his daily business duties. He was a Presbyterian in religious faith, a staunch supporter of the First Presbyterian church of Findlay, and a generous contributor to every local charitable institution.

Mr. Niles was a Son of the American Revolution, a Free Mason of high degree, belonging to the various Masonic bodies and a Noble of the Mystic Shrine, and was also a very prominent Odd Fellow, being one of the oldest members of the Grand Lodge of Ohio, and was grand treasurer thereof for eleven years prior to his death. He was one of the early members of Hancock Lodge, No. 73, of Findlay, in which he filled every office, and was also a member of Golden Rule Encampment, Findlay Rebekah Lodge, and was colonel of the Patriarchs Militant. Many prominent Odd Fellows and bankers, as well as other leading citizens from all parts of Ohio, were present at the funeral services to pay their last tribute to their beloved friend and comrade. In his case further eulogy is superfluous. The strength and fullness of his well rounded character, and his genial and attractive personality are well known to all prominent citizens of Findlay and throughout Hancock County. In him the county lost one of the most valued of its adopted sons.

MOSES McANELLY, who owns 341 acres of valuable land in Hancock County, O., one farm of 160 acres and one of eighty-one acres, situated a half mile north of the New Haven road, eight miles east of Findlay, is a very successful farmer and stock raiser of Big Lick Township. He was born March 15, 1853, on this farm, and his parents were Hon. Moses and Mary (Roller) McAnelly. Hon. Moses McAnelly was a prominent man in Hancock County for many years, serving two terms in the lower house of the state legislature, and two terms in the senate. He was born in Pennsylvania, in Westmoreland County, in 1804, and came to Hancock County in 1830, where he engaged in teaching school. He was a man of intellectual attainments, fine address and naturally became a leader. In 1833 he married Mary Roller, who was born in Pennsylvania in September, 1812, a daughter of Judge William and Nancy Roller. When she was twelve years old her parents came to Richland County, O., and from Lucas to Hancock County, O., and entered land from the Government which consists of the present farm. To Moses and Mary McAnelly the following children were born: William, who is deceased; Jefferson (was a county judge in the State of Colorado); John, who is deceased; Mary, who married a Mr. McAnelly; Nancy, who married Nathaniel Thomas; Lucinda, who married Charles Beamer; Charlotte, who married Ben Cole; and Moses, who bears his father's name. Judge Jefferson McAnelly married Sarah Leonard. The father of this family died in 1852, aged forty-eight years. The mother survived to be eighty-three years of age, her death occurring on March 5, 1898.

Moses McAnelly enjoyed fewer educational advantages than would have been his had his father lived, but the latter's early death threw heavy responsibilities on the sons, and Moses very soon became the home farmer and has resided here all his life. He does general farming, but is mainly interested in raising stock. During the early days of the oil excitement he was somewhat interested and met with success in the ventures he made in connection with that industry.

In 1881, Mr. McAnelly was married to Miss Phebe Cooper, who was born and reared in Portage Township, Hancock County, and they have five children: John C.; May Ann, who was married in 1908 to Wilson Long, and they have twin daughters—Mary and Martha; Thomas Homer, who was married in 1908 to Jane Tobey; and Roller C. and Lois. Mr. McAnelly and family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. In politics he is a Democrat, but he has never consented to accept public office. He is identified with the order of Ben Hur, at West Independence.

HENRY DEEDS, the owner of 130 acres of rich farm land, which is situated in Section 1, Union Township, is one of the old settled residents of this neighborhood, having lived on his present homestead for thirty-six years. He was born in this township, October 5, 1846, and is a son of Henry and Margaret Deeds.

Henry Deeds was born in Pennsylvania and when young was brought by his parents to Fairfield County, O., where he grew to manhood. He was subsequently married there to Margaret Kramer, who was born in Fairfield County, and like himself, came from an agricultural family. Later—in 1833—they moved to Hancock County, Ohio, where Henry Deeds carried on farming all his life, his death occurr-

ing in Union Township in 1892. His widow survived him for only six years.

Henry Deeds, the present bearer of the name, was reared in Union Township and attended the district schools whenever he had the opportunity, but in his boyhood days school privileges were not afforded as they are in the present time. Following his marriage he lived for five years in Eagle Township and then moved to his present farm, on which, at different times he has made improvements, rebuilding both house and barn and attending to all the other details which, to an experienced eye, distinguishes a well kept farm from one which is neglected. He carries on general farming and raises stock, not indulging in any registered animals, however, finding the common kind, when well cared for, sufficiently profitable. He has money invested in other property and owns a large frame dwelling house which is in the heart of the business district of Findlay.

In 1869, Mr. Deeds was married to Miss Ellen Elsea, of Eagle Township, Hancock County, and they have had five children: Etta May, who is the wife of George Crozier, of Eagle Township, (they have four children—Dorsea, Roy, Nellie, and Gale); Roy, who married Amanda Schwine, of Union Township and after her death, Gertrude Powell, and died at Findlay, in 1905; Maggie, who died on the farm in 1893, aged nineteen years; Cora Dell, who died here in 1899, aged sixteen years; and Myrtle Estella, who is the wife of Eaber Davis, of Eagle Township. Mr. and Mrs. Davis have been called upon to bear heavy domestic affliction. They are members of the United Brethren church at Findlay, in which Mr. Deeds is an elder.

OLIVER HUFFMAN,* a representative citizen and excellent farmer of Union Township, Hancock County, O., resides on the farm of 100 acres on which he was born, May 30, 1860. His parents were C. W. and Barbara (Fleck) Huffman.

C. W. Huffman was born in Fairfield County, O., and came to Union Township, Hancock County, with his parents when only three years of age, his father, Jacob Huffman, being one of the pioneer settlers in this section. The Huffmans have always been farmers and have been people of high standing in the township.

Oliver Huffman has always lived on the home farm which he now owns and since it came into his possession he has made many substantial improvements, the last ten years having witnessed the tiling of the land and the building of his comfortable residence and commodious barn. Mr. Huffman is one of the progressive agriculturists and has his land in such condition that excellent crops are invariably produced and different kinds of stock have their natural increase.

Mr. Huffman was married in 1885, to Miss Katie Smith, a daughter of Christian and Elizabeth Smith, both of whom were born in Germany. Mrs. Huffman was born in Union Township and she and husband attended the same school. They have had two children: Charles, who was born in 1887, died at the age of ten years; and Clarence, who assists his father. Mr. Huffman has always taken a large amount of interest in public education and served on the township school board from 1891 until the fall of 1909.

A. L. OPP, dealer in wool and other farm products, who resides on his farm of 120 acres

situated in Sections 34 and 35, Marion Township, is also the owner of a farm in Section 8, comprising 116¼ acres, located near Findlay. In addition to these interests he also cultivates the Beard farm of 120 acres. He was born October 12, 1866, on the old Opp homestead in Marion Township, a son of B. F. and Sara Ann Opp, his parents being old settlers and representative people of Hancock County.

The subject of this sketch, after securing a district school education in his boyhood, began to take up farm work, of which he soon obtained a practical mastery. After his marriage he removed to the home farm of his wife to take charge of it, later purchasing other desirable land, and he has been a prominent representative of the agricultural interests of the county ever since. Besides engaging in general farming, he makes a specialty of raising sheep, keeping a flock of about 200 and dealing extensively in wool, both buying and selling. He also carries on a coal business, owns stock in the Buckeye Clay works at East Liverpool, Ohio., and also owns stock in the Peat Fuel & Gas Company of Michigan. Thus in various ways he shows his enterprise as a business man and his efforts have been rewarded with a gratifying degree of prosperity.

On July 18, 1886, Mr. Opp was married to Miss Esther Beard, a daughter of the late James and Henrietta Beard. They have three children—Onnon, who is a graduate of Findlay College; Grace, who is a teacher of public school; and Rozella, who is a Boxwell graduate. Mr. Opp and his family are members of the United Brethren church, which he has served as a trustee for many years. In politics he is a Democrat and has held the office of township trustee. In addition to other modern improvements on his place, Mr. Opp has installed the telephone, which he finds necessary to the prompt transaction of his large volume of business.

CHARLES DETER, a general farmer and representative citizen of Portage Township, is a member of one of the old and substantial families of this section. He was born on the Deter homestead, situated in Section 8, Portage Township, this county, April 25, 1874, and is a son of Peter and Mary Jane (Thomas) Deter.

The father of Mr. Deter was born in Pennsylvania, a son of Jacob Deter. The latter moved to Richland County and in 1836 brought his family to Portage Township, Hancock County, and bought the present farm from Jasper Franks, who made the entry. Jacob Deter and wife died on this farm. Here the father of Charles Deter was reared from the age of eleven years and spent his life, his death occurring on January 11, 1900. He was widely known and a highly respected man. He married Mary Jane Thomas, who was born east of Findlay, in Hancock County, a daughter of Jacob Thomas, who moved to Pleasant Township when she was eleven months old, and she was reared there. Mr. and Mrs. Deter had five children, namely: Alice, Ida, Laura, Clifford and Charles. Laura is the wife of W. A. Wiseley, of Vanlue, O. The Deter family own collectively 280 acres of some of the finest farm land in Portage Township, their possessions individually being as follows: The mother owns the homestead of 160 acres; Charles owns forty acres, in Section 8; Clifford owns forty acres; and Ida and Alice together own forty acres. The whole farm is managed and operated by Charles and Clifford Deter. They carry on general farming and are

numbered with the successful agriculturists of this section. They are not very active in politics but both take a good citizen's interest in public matters.

M. L. COFFIN,* cashier of the Commercial Bank, at Rawson, O., a position he has filled ever since the organization of this institution in 1902, was born in Rush County, Ind., June 27, 1877, and is a son of Zeno and C. (Gardner) Coffin.

Zeno Coffin was born in Rush County, Ind., where he spent his life, his death occurring in 1901. He was a blacksmith by trade. He married a daughter of Milton Gardner. Mrs. Coffin, who was born in Union County, Ind., still survives.

M. L. Coffin attended school more or less regularly until he was nineteen years of age, at which time he went into railroad work and continued until 1902, when he turned his attention to banking and has been a resident of Rawson ever since. He is an active and leading citizen of the place and for two years has been a member of the school board and of the board of health.

Mr. Coffin was married April 22, 1903, to Miss Dora Hawk, a daughter of John and Permelia Hawk, prominent farmers of Meigs County, O. Mr. and Mrs. Coffin have three children: Frank, Phebe and Milton. Mrs. Coffin is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church at Rawson and is active in the social life of the place. Mr. Coffin is a Mason and belongs also to the Knights of Pythias.

RUFUS FOREMAN, who is engaged in farming and stock raising in Eagle Township, Hancock County, O., was born on his present farm, October 15, 1864, and is a son of John F. and Margaret (Yates) Foreman.

John F. Foreman and wife were born in Pennsylvania and came early to Eagle Township with their parents. When the present Foreman farm was acquired it was entirely undeveloped land. John F. Foreman did considerable clearing and followed an agricultural life here. His death occurred in 1908 and that of his wife on January 11, 1898.

Rufus Foreman grew to manhood on the farm he now owns, a tract of eighty-two acres, situated within five and one-half miles of Findlay, to the southwest, in Section 9, Eagle Township. He has done a large amount of improving here and has erected all the substantial farm buildings on the place. He has his farm well stocked and makes a specialty of raising cattle, hogs and horses.

Mr. Foreman married Miss Catherine Yates, a daughter of Samuel B. and Mary (Oman) Yates. The former was an early settler here and died in Eagle Township, as did his wife. Mr. and Mrs. Foreman have no children of their own but they have been parents and protectors to two orphans, Edward Arnold and Hazel Yates, these children finding a home with them when but four years old. For ten years Mr. Foreman has been a member of the Junior Order of American Mechanics. He is a well informed and highly respected citizen of Eagle Township and is considered one of its best farmers.

HON. WILLIAM ROSS KINDER (deceased), was once one of Butler County, Ohio's most brilliant men, a lawyer of ability, a newspaper man of influence and a jurist of high character. His span of life was comparatively short, but within it he accomplished

more than have many whose lives have been prolonged to four score years and ten. His birth took place at Franklin, Ohio, in December, 1826, and his death occurred on February 10, 1860.

From Holland came the first Kinders to America and the sterling qualities of their ancestry have always been more or less noticeable in the descendants. Philip Kinder, son of the settler, was born in Holland and he participated in the Revolutionary War, entering the Patriot army from Berks County, Pa. There lived his son, George Kinder, who was the father of Abraham Kinder, who came to Ohio in 1800, a pioneer, entering land from the government in Warren County. On the Warren County farm the father of Judge William R. Kinder was born, in the same year that the family settled in that wild section, and there he followed agricultural pursuits for a time and then became interested in traffic on the Miami and Erie Canal, owning and operating boats on that inland waterway. He died in 1863.

William Ross Kinder became a student of law in early manhood, his preceptor being Hon. John B. Weller, then a resident of Hamilton, Ohio, but subsequently governor and United States Senator of California. When Judge Weller was appointed a member of the government commission to determine the boundary lines between Mexico and California, he tendered the position of private secretary to his pupil, and they were thus associated until the satisfactory settlement of the contention. For two subsequent years they were law partners in San Francisco. In 1852 Mr. Kinder returned to the East and in the same year purchased the Hamilton Telegraph, a weekly newspaper, which, under his able management, increased in patronage and influence and he continued its publication until 1858, when he disposed of his interest in order to assume the duties of probate judge of Butler County. His record of two years on the Bench reflected only credit and his name is recorded with others of eminence of a period of particular importance, just preceding, as it did, the great Civil War, Judge Kinder died in harness, not having survived to finish his term of office.

In 1852 he was married to Miss Agnes Long, a native of Cincinnati, a daughter of Jacob and Maria (L'Hommedieu) Long. They had four sons, two of whom survive: Hon. Walter H. Kinder, who is judge of the Circuit Court of the Third District of Ohio; and Stephen L'H., who is identified with the Chicago and Michigan Railroad.

HARRY L. TARBOX, senior member of the firm of Tarbox & McCall, operators of a large stone quarry on Western Avenue, and manufacturers of cement block, porch columns, yard vases, etc., has been a resident of Findlay, O., since the spring of 1889. He was born April 24, 1858, in Cedarville, Greene County, O., and is a son of Samuel L. and Ruth L. (Jackson) Tarbox, and is a direct descendant of Andrew Jackson, seventh president of the United States.

Samuel L. Tarbox, a native of Maine, was for many years extensively engaged in the lumber business in Greene County, O., and in addition to his lumber operations was also a successful farmer and civil engineer. He was also interested in the stone quarries of Greene County. The mother of our subject was born in Greene County, O., a daughter of David and Mary Jackson. Her father, David Jackson, was born March 3, 1794, in Westmoreland

County, Pa., a son of Robert and Elizabeth (McCorkle) Jackson, who were married in 1786. Robert Jackson's father was David Jackson, and was a son by a second marriage of Dr. Joseph Jackson, who was born in 1690, in North Ireland. David Jackson emigrated to America in 1762 and located in Chester County, Pa., where he followed blacksmithing and farming for many years. He died in Lancaster, Pa. His stepbrother, Andrew Jackson, who was born of his father's first marriage, also emigrated to America, and in 1765 located in South Carolina, where, on March 15, 1765, was born his son, Andrew Jackson, the distinguished soldier and statesman, and the seventh president of the United States.

Harry L. Tarbox was reared in Greene County, O., and after leaving school began working for his father who operated a stone quarry, and has since made that his life occupation. In the spring of 1889 he came to Findlay, O., and leased and operated a stone quarry in the western part of the town until 1898. He then formed a partnership with Mr. McCall and opened their present quarry on Western Avenue at Findlay, and abandoned the old quarry. Mr. Tarbox is also largely interested in the development of coal lands in Columbiana County, O.

Mr. Tarbox was married March 12, 1884, to Essie Daugherty, who is a daughter of Eliphalet and Sarah Daugherty of Greene County, O., and they have the following children: Nellie; Frederick, who is a student at the Ohio State University at Columbus; Belle D.; Frank; and Edna and Edwin, twins. Mr. Tarbox is a member of the United Presbyterian church, and belongs to its board of trustees.

DANIEL W. FRICK, one of the leading citizens of Allen Township, Hancock County, O., who is engaged in general farming on a tract of 200 acres, which is located about one-half mile north of Van Buren, O., was born July 7, 1855, in Marion County, West Va., and is a son of David and Maria (Lenhart) Frick.

Daniel W. Frick was an infant when his parents removed to Iowa where his mother shortly afterward died. When two years of age he went to live with his uncle, Daniel Frick, of Van Buren, Hancock County, O., and there spent his early boyhood days. His uncle came to Van Buren in 1855 and engaged in the mercantile business and later also operated a grist mill. In 1871 he located on the farm now owned by his nephew, Daniel W. Frick, but spent his declining years at Van Buren, where his death occurred. Daniel Frick was the father of two children, both of whom died in infancy, and at his death he left his farm to our subject.

Daniel W. Frick attended the local schools of Van Buren, O., and has lived on his present farm since 1871. He carries on general farming and in the spring of 1909 added to the 160 acres left him by his uncle, a tract of forty acres, which he purchased from Joseph R. Kagy. He was married in 1885 to Lena Neuman, a native of Germany, who at the age of twelve years came to this country with her father, Frederick Neuman, who located in Hancock County, Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Frick have one daughter, Virginia Frick.

Mr. Frick is a member of the Knights of Pythias, No. 473, at Van Buren, O.

WILLIAM G. WAGGONER, an enterprising farmer and much esteemed citizen of Marion Township, Hancock County, O., re-

sides on a fine farm of 79½ acres located in Section 12, and has spent the greater part of his life in Hancock County, O. He was born March 4, 1840, in Jefferson County, Ohio, a son of Edward and Eliza (Allen) Waggoner, and a grandson of William Waggoner, who was a native of Germany and one of the early settlers of Jefferson County, Ohio.

William Waggoner and a brother came to this country to avoid military service, their father being a member of the German royalty. William first located in Pennsylvania, but later came to Jefferson County, Ohio, and located near Steubenville, where he resided until the time of his death. His brother went to Canada, and each thought the other dead until some years later, when a brother of our subject went to Canada on a visit. William married a Miss Jackson, who was a distant relative of President Jackson, and of their union were born the following children: John, Caleb, William, James, Edward, Josiah, Louisa, Jane, Sarah, Keziah, and Joseph, all now deceased.

Edward Waggoner, father of our subject, grew to manhood in Jefferson County, Ohio, where he was joined in marriage with Eliza Allen, also a native of that county. In 1849 they came to Hancock County and settled on a tract of timberland in Cass Township, where he built a log cabin and made a clearing. He subsequently sold this land and removed to Michigan, where he and his wife both died. They were the parents of seven children: Aaron Jackson, deceased, who served in the Civil War; William Glenn, our subject; Mary, who is the wife of David Reichard; James, who served in the Civil War; Samuel; Sarah, is the wife of Joseph Wang; and Keziah, who died young.

William Waggoner was reared in Cass Township, Hancock County, Ohio, where his parents settled when he was quite young, and his education was obtained in the old log pay school of this district. He assisted in clearing the farm, and when young worked at carpentering, and also worked as a tanner seven years, which was also his father's trade. He purchased 40 acres, and his wife inherited 40 of the Davis farm (80 acres in all) and follows general farming. He has cleared all the land with the exception of 25 acres, has erected all of the buildings, and has had five oil wells in operation.

Mr. Waggoner was married in 1866 to Rachel Davis, a daughter of William Davis, and sister of Isaac Davis. Three children have been born to our subject and wife; Edward, who married Laura Wisley, and is the father of three children—Catherine, William and Edward; (he is a resident of Lima, O., and is employed on the railroad); and Charles and Mary May, twins. Charles, who lives near our subject, married Catherine Fisher and has one daughter, Ruth. Mary May married John Welch of Kansas, and has two children: Helen R. and Mary Margaret. Mr. Waggoner is politically a Republican.

JOHN M. HAMLIN,* a representative member of the Hancock County bar and a well known resident of Mt. Blanchard, was born in Delaware Township, Hancock County, February 1, 1841, and is a son of Washington and Mary (Marshall) Hamlin. Washington Hamlin was born in Guernsey County, O., and in 1827 came to Hancock County and settled in Delaware Township, where he died in 1892. His widow survived until 1895. They were farming people and were well known and highly respected in Delaware Township.

John M. Hamlin attended the schools in his native township in early boyhood and later had better advantages at Findlay. From 1857 until 1862 he conducted a general store at Mt. Blanchard and at that time was the youngest buyer from the West in the eastern markets. In the latter year he became a student of law under the direction of Attorney Israel Brown, at Findlay, and in the fall of the same year entered a law school at Cleveland, where he was graduated. Later he was admitted to the bar in Guernsey County, where he practiced for one year and then returned to Findlay, was admitted to the Hancock County bar and engaged in the practice of law in that city for forty years. Mr. Hamlin then returned to Mt. Blanchard, where his first business venture had been conducted and has been one of the leading citizens ever since. In 1869 he was the candidate of the Republican party for prosecuting attorney of Hancock County but the Democrats gained the election in that campaign.

In 1861 Mr. Hamlin was married to Miss Mary Lockwood and eight children were born to them, namely: Abbott L., who was born January 25, 1862, and died August 20, 1882; Lulu, born August 6, 1863, who died June 11, 1865: a babe that died early; Florence, who was educated at Delaware College, married M. C. Shaffer, of Findlay, and they have three children—Richard, Mary C. and Morgan W.; Nellie C., who was also educated at Delaware College, and married Frank Preston McGuigan, of Pennsylvania; Ida May, who is a successful teacher at Portland, Ore.; Gale Leora, who was a graduate of the Findlay High School, and died April 30, 1900; and Arthur L., who was born August 20, 1883, and died April 25, 1885. Mr. Hamlin and family are members of the United Presbyterian church at Mt. Blanchard and he is president of its board of trustees.

CLINTON S. CORTHELL, deceased, formerly one of Findlay's capitalists and prominent business men, was largely identified with the oil industry for many years. He was associated with C. L. Casterline in the Genesee Oil Company, the Bradford Oil Company, and the Bradford Glycerine Company, and was a stockholder and director in several successful enterprises. For a number of years he was interested also as a stockman and dealt extensively especially in horses, being a fine judge of horse flesh and owning at different times many valuable animals. He was born in Hinsdale Township, Cattaraugus County, N. Y., in 1844, and died at Findlay, April 16, 1903.

Mr. Corthell was a self-made man and his remarkable business success was entirely brought about through his own efforts. He became interested in the Pennsylvania oil fields in 1864. He owned and for six years operated the stage line between Franklinville and Hinsdale, N. Y. For many years he was favorably known to the business men of Bradford, Pa., and in 1887 he moved from there to Findlay, O., where his natural good judgment again controlled his investments and eventually brought him the ample fortune which placed him among the city's capitalists. They valued his advice and consulted his judgment and in their reliance on his foresight, largely directed their investments. In the public affairs of Findlay, Mr. Corthell was also active and the same qualities which brought about his personal prosperity, contributed to the progress of the city when he was in a position to make use of them as a member of the city council, a

position he held for some eight years. He was an old-time Democrat in politics and was zealous in support of Democratic principles although it was often said that he was as honest in politics as he was in business. He was a charter member of the order of Elks at Findlay and was valued highly by his fraternity. Perhaps no more generous, open-handed man ever lived at Findlay. Genial, kind and thoughtful with his friends, when appeals were made to his sympathy for the poor, needy or suffering, he was generous without limit. In his home life, his best qualities were manifested.

Mr. Corthell was married in Pennsylvania, in 1887, to Miss Mary A. Boyington, Mrs. Corthell and daughter, Frieda, enjoy a beautiful home at No. 218 Park Place, Findlay.

THEODORE KARN, one of the best known men of Cass Township, Hancock County, O., a lifelong resident and a member of an honorable old pioneer family, for many years has carried on general farming on his own place of sixty acres, situated in Section 15, and on thirty-eight acres belonging to his wife, in Section 14, both in Cass Township. He was born in this township, February 9, 1842, and is a son of Ezra and Elizabeth (Albertson) Karn, and a grandson of Valentine Karn.

Ezra Karn, father of Theodore, was born in Maryland and was a boy when he accompanied his parents to Ohio. His father, Valentine Karn, was of German extraction. He settled first in Holmes County and moved from there to Hancock County and subsequently died in Cass Township. He had ten children: Mary Ann, Joshua, Magdalena, Aaron, Ezra, Elizabeth, Abram, Samuel, David and Rebecca. All accompanied their father to Hancock County except Mary Ann, who married and lived in Holmes County.

Ezra Karn was about nineteen years of age when the family came to Hancock County. The farm his father secured had two or three acres cleared around a small log cabin, otherwise no improvements had been made and when the sons grew old enough they helped to complete the clearing of the land and assisted in its cultivating, making use of oxen in those days. Their nearest neighbors were the Albertsons, who had come from New Jersey and in the previous year, 1835, had also settled in the woods in Cass Township. They were New Jersey people, George Albertson, wife and daughter, Elizabeth, the latter being then sixteen years old. They had started on the long journey from New Jersey to Hancock County, O., with a one-horse wagon. It was strongly built and as Elizabeth walked almost the whole distance, safely transported the family effects until the party reached what is now the main thoroughfare of Fostoria, when it was so stalled in the mud that assistance had to be afforded before the travelers could proceed further. Ezra Karn subsequently married Elizabeth Albertson and eight children were born to them, Theodore being the second in order of birth. The others are as follows: William, who is now deceased—was a member of Co. G, 118th O. Vol. Inf., in the Civil War and suffered the loss of a leg in the battle of Peach Tree Creek; Drucilla, deceased, who was the wife of Fred Karrick, who is also deceased; Jerome, who lives in Cass Township; Simeon, who resides in Washington Township; Albert, whose farm is in Cass Township; Martin L., who resides at Findlay; and Mary E., deceased, who was the wife of George Taburn.

Theodore Karn attended the old log school-

house in the neighborhood of his father's house, with his brothers and sisters, but hard work early awaited farmers in those days and as soon as he was able to handle the hoe and rake there was daily toil for him. He assisted in clearing up the parts of the farm still in a wild condition and remained under the home roof until his marriage, when he purchased from the other heirs. He no longer attends personally to his farm, renting out his fields and also having others attend to the work necessitated by five producing oil wells on his property.

On November 15, 1883, Mr. Karn was married to Miss Mary E. Swisher, who was born at Ada, O., a daughter of Peter and Mary (Doty) Swisher. Peter Swisher was a soldier in the Civil War, a member of the 99th O. Vol. Inf., and while in the service was captured by the enemy and imprisoned for 100 days in Libby prison. He died at the home of Mr. Karn in Cass Township. Mr. and Mrs. Karn have four children: Grace V., who is the wife of John Barnhouse, of Van Buren, O.; and Jennie, Edwin S. and Hazel A. In politics, Mr. Karn is a Democrat. He has served in township offices, having been school director and supervisor and for two years was a justice of the peace. He has witnessed many changes during his long life in this section, in methods of farming, ways of transportation and standards of living. As he swiftly moves over the fine country roads in his handsome new model Ford automobile, he can scarcely fail to contrast it with the ox-team which he used in his boyhood. Mr. Karn is one of the men who has kept up with the times and having helped bring about more comfortable ways of living, does not hesitate to enjoy them.

SAMUEL S. FRANKS,* township trustee and an extensive agriculturist of Allen Township, Hancock County, Ohio, is the owner of two tracts of farm land, the one on which he lives consists of 112 acres and is located just east of Van Buren, Ohio, and the other consisting of 102¼ acres, is located one and a half miles north of Van Buren. He was born March 13, 1874, in Cass Township, Hancock County, Ohio, and is a son of Jasper and Martha (Smith) Franks.

Jasper Franks was born in Pennsylvania and at an early age came to Hancock County, Ohio, with his father, John Franks, who was one of the earliest settlers of the county. Jasper Franks married Martha Smith, who was born in Seneca County, Ohio, and they began housekeeping in Cass Township, Hancock County, where they followed farming some years. Later in life Jasper Franks moved to North Baltimore, where he lived in retirement some years, but he subsequently returned to Hancock County, and passed out of this life at Van Buren, Ohio, July 13, 1901. The mother of our subject died on the farm in 1899. Four children were born to the parents of our subject: John Franks; Evaline, who is the wife of George Peffly; Samuel S., the subject of this record; and Della, who died in February, 1907, and who was the wife of William Alworth.

Samuel S. Franks was ten years of age when his parents removed to Findlay, where they resided but two years. They then settled on the old Franks farm of 102¼ acres in Allen Township, and subsequently fell heir to the land, which is now owned by Mr. Franks. Mr. Franks was married in 1899 and began housekeeping on this farm, and in the fall of 1909 bought the old Henry Franks farm of 112 acres

just east of Van Buren in Allen Township. Mr. Franks resides on the latter property, but farms both places, and makes a specialty of raising poland china hogs in connection with general farming.

Mr. Franks was married in 1899 to Jessie Lauer, a daughter of Nicholas Lauer and they have two children: Martha Elizabeth, and Samuel Eugene. In politics Mr. Franks is a Democrat and in the fall of 1907 was elected trustee of Allen Township, and re-elected to that office in the fall of 1909, his present term expiring January 1, 1912. He is fraternally affiliated with the Knights of Pythias, No. 473, of Van Buren.

JAMES T. ADAMS, deceased, formerly president of the Adams Brothers Company, at Findlay, Ohio, one of the city's important manufacturing concerns, was identified not only with the development of this business from its infancy, but was also connected with many other important enterprises. Mr. Adams was born April 22, 1825, and his death occurred April 10th, 1906. His native place was Perry County, Pa., and from there, when ten years old, his parents brought him to Ohio. His father was Rev. William Adams, who settled in Wayne County in 1837 and came to Findlay in 1860.

The Adams family to which the late James T. Adams belonged, is of English extraction, of colonial settlement and of Revolutionary stock. Mr. Adams, however, was a man who needed no background of distinguished ancestry to impress those with whom he came in contact, although their sterling traits of character may have had a hereditary influence in the makeup of his own. From the age of fourteen years he provided for his own maintenance. At that age he began to learn the tinsmith's trade at Massillon, Ohio, where he lived until 1845. He then went to Plymouth and continued work there until 1854, when he came to Findlay. He continued work as a tinsmith until 1864 and then opened a general hardware store which he conducted for about six years, selling out in order to enter—rather extensively for the time—into the manufacture of linseed oil. This industry he continued until 1878, when, in association with his brothers he organized the foundry and machine business which is continued under the style of the Adams Brothers Company. In 1890 the business was incorporated, James T. Adams becoming president, and Newton Adams, treasurer. The enterprise has grown steadily, while in all Western Ohio no firm name stands higher in the trade than that of Adams Brothers.

For fifty-five years the late James T. Adams was identified with Findlay's interests and these he frequently made personal ones. With fidelity to the public he served for sixteen years on the city council where his practical common sense and sound business advice made him an invaluable public servant. He was equally useful as a member of the school board, and was the promoter of many of the benevolent enterprises which have made Findlay notable in charitable records. The Adams Building, which he erected in 1902, is one of the handsomest and best equipped business structures in the ctiy.

Mr. Adams was married in 1849, to Miss Harriet L. Bodine, who was a daughter of Peter Bodine, formerly of Richland County, Ohio. Three children were born to this union, the two survivors being: Charles F. and Lizzie. The latter married John A. Meeks and they reside at Findlay. Mr. Adams was mar-

ried in 1902 to Mrs. Catherine Elmes, a native of Findlay. She was a daughter of Simon Ransbottom, a farmer of Hancock County. Mrs. Adams occupies her comfortable home at No. 203 East Hardin Street, Findlay.

In his political views, Mr. Adams was a Republican. He was a member of the Presbyterian church and a generous supporter of many of its benevolent movements. From early manhood he had been identified with the fraternal order of Odd Fellows, being in fact the oldest continuous member in Hancock County, and belonged to both the primary branch and to the Encampment.

The following remarks, which are part of an extended notice which appeared in a local paper on the occasion of his death, will serve to show the esteem in which he was held by the citizens of Findlay and of the county generally:

"In the death of J. T. Adams the city of Findlay loses one of its foremost citizens and his family a good father and friend. He was a self-made man, by his own efforts rising to wealth and influence, and by his example forming an object lesson that the young men of today might do well to emulate. He spent the greater portion of his life in Findlay, witnessing its growth from an obscure village to its present splendid proportions, and he materially assisted in such growth, spending very many thousands of dollars in its upbuilding and expending millions among working men and for material during his long and busy career in this city. He has truly been a benefactor to his fellows, and while not of a demonstrative disposition, possessed a warm heart and generous nature, and the friends he made were always steadfast and staunch."

Such indeed was Mr. Adams—a man who will not soon be forgotten by any of those with whom he came into personal contact.

JAMES M. BARR,* who for many years was identified with the oil and gas industry, and served four years as postmaster of Findlay, O., was born June 27, 1847, on his present residence property at No. 200 W. Front Street, Findlay, Ohio, a son of James H. and Mary (Shaw) Barr.

James H. Barr was born in Fairfield County, Ohio, and in early manhood came to Findlay, Ohio. He was one of the pioneer merchants of Findlay, being a member of the old firm of Taylor and Barr, and was the first probate judge of Hancock County, in which capacity he served two terms.

James M. Barr was reared in Findlay, Ohio, and after obtaining an education in the schools of this city, went to New York City, where he spent six years working in a wholesale house. He then returned to Findlay, Ohio, where he succeeded S. C. Moore as postmaster, receiving his appointment during Cleveland's last administration. Since the close of his term as postmaster, Mr. Barr has devoted his time to the oil and gas business, but is now not actively engaged in business.

Mr. Barr was united in marriage with Laura P. Starr, who comes of one of the prominent families of Wyandot County, Ohio, and is a daughter of Hiram J. Starr, deceased, who was one of the prominent farmers and stockmen of that county. Mr. Barr is identified with the Democratic party in politics, and has served as councilman and in various other offices. He is fraternally a Mason.

JOHN W. ZELLER, state school commissioner, one of Ohio's earnest and effectual men

in the educational field, for more than thirty consecutive years was superintendent of the schools of Findlay. With almost a parent's interest he watched them develop from a primitive state with more or less crude methods of instruction to the highly organized and thoroughly representative educational bodies they are today, in all their features reflecting the scholarly influence he has brought to bear in this long period of association. Prof. Zeller was born January 22, 1849, in Union Township, Hancock County, Ohio, coming of solid, substantial, virtuous and frugal German parentage.

When seventeen years of age, having made the most of his afforded opportunities in the district schools, he began to teach school, and after six years found himself able to enter the Ohio Normal University at Ada; in 1874 he was a member of the first graduating class of that institution. After more schoolroom work, in Logan County, Ohio, where he was school superintendent for two years, he entered Mt. Union College where he earned the degree of Ph. B., from which college he also received later the degree of Ph. M. He subsequently took up the study of languages at the Ohio Normal University, where he also acted as a tutor; he studied political economy at Ann Arbor, Michigan, and later at Findlay College, where he obtained the degree of Ph. D., in 1892.

In 1877 Professor Zeller was first appointed superintendent of the Findlay schools, with sixteen teachers, three buildings and fifteen schools under his charge. A comparison shows in some degree what he has accomplished in the way of advancing the material possessions of the city in this line. There are, in 1910, ninety-four teachers, fourteen buildings and one of the finest High School buildings in the state. These structures are modern in every particular, their equipments being such as to give students the advantages which their fathers could scarcely have obtained in college or academy in their pupil days. To estimate the work done and progress made in intellectual advancement by Professor Zeller, would be a difficult task, but it may be indicated by the fact that graduates from the Findlay High School take precedence generally in any intellectual contests where opportunities are afforded them for competition.

Professor Zeller has long been an important factor in every organization in the state devoted especially to the advancement or the advantage of teachers. He was one of the founders and served several times as president of the Northwestern Ohio Teachers' Association. For years he has conducted institutes all over the State, and in the fall election of 1908 he was chosen State School Commissioner by a plurality of 46,559. So closely has he applied himself to the educational interests of his section that purely business enterprises have never appealed to him to any great extent; but he early became interested in the development of natural gas and was a member of the company that drilled the first gas well in Ohio, this being the memorable event of the year 1886 in Findlay. Together with his interest in all that pertains to the public weal of his fellow citizens, he takes active part in the Findlay Y. M. C. A. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, of which he has been a steward, and was one of the prime movers in the erection of the Howard and Heck Methodist churches at Findlay. In politics he is a Republican. His handsome residence is located at No. 311 East Lincoln Avenue, Findlay.

M. D. NEFF,* senior member of the firm of M. D. Neff & Co., lumber dealers and operators of a planing-mill and saw-mill, with works and yards on Fair Street, at the junction of Main and the L. E. & W. Railroad, Findlay, Ohio, is a thoroughly experienced man in this business, being only eighteen years of age when he became his father's manager in the same line. He was born at Fremont, Ohio, November 6, 1860, and is a son of M. T. and Samantha (Turner) Neff.

M. T. Neff was born in 1832, at Fremont, Ohio, where he was reared and there entered into the lumber business and operated extensively, at one time having three saw-mills on the Sandusky River. He extended his interests to Michigan, where he dealt by wholesale and it was while occupied there that he was seriously injured. He transferred his interests to Findlay, in 1878, and continued in the business, under the style of the M. T. Neff Lumber and planing mill, until his death, in 1903.

M. D. Neff was reared and educated at Fremont and from boyhood has been interested in the lumber business, giving his father assistance even before he left school. When the father died, Mr. Neff, together with his sister, Lucretia Neff, bought out the other heirs and changed the firm style to M. D. Neff & Co., and the business has been prosperous ever since, employment being given to from twelve to fifteen men. Mr. Neff was married to Miss Etta Belle Jones, of Pittsburg, Pa., and they have one child, Mildred. Mr. Neff belongs to the Elks.

FRANK KARST, senior member of the firm of Karst and Laffey, well known grocers of Findlay, Ohio, has been a resident of Findlay since 1849. He was born March 29, 1827, in Badenheim, near Bingen on the Rhine, Hessen Darmstadt, son of Martin and Elizabeth (Bertram) Karst.

Frank Karst was reared in Germany and at the age of fourteen years began working as a clerk in a hardware store. He later became identified with a wholesale notion store, and in 1849 came with his parents to America. The family stopped for a few months in Reading, Pa., with a brother of our subject, but subsequently located on a farm in Eagle Township, Hancock County, Ohio. Mr. Karst was unable to endure the hardships of clearing the land, and came to Findlay in 1849, where he spent the first month working in a dry goods store, but later clerked one and a half years in a grocery store.

In the spring of 1852 he established himself in the grocery business on Main Street, in what is now the Kimmel Block and was associated in that business with his brother Jacob until 1858, when he purchased his brother's interest in same. In 1855 he purchased the property where the Edwards Shoe Company is now situated, and three years later traded that for the property upon which the Mystic Theatre now stands. In 1866 he built and rented out the building and in 1870 he purchased the building on the corner of Main and Main Cross Streets, and in 1872 moved his store. In 1887 he formed a partnership with Fred Kwis and conducted the business until 1890, when the old building was torn down and the present building erected. In 1896 he bought the stock of Gayer & Davis and associated himself with R. M. Wise. In 1900 he sold his interest to Shafer & Wise and bought the stock of Keiffer & Nonnamaker and the concern is now known as the firm of Karst & Laffey, where they have been for ten years. Mr. Karst erected the first

AUGUST NEUMAN

house in the Vance addition to Findlay in 1854.

Mr. Karst was married to Anna Maria Schneider (born in Bregens, Austria, on Lake Constance), and of this union were born eight children—Frank L., Joseph P., Amelia, Catherine, Julius, Adeline, August and Martin—of whom two survive, one son and one daughter. The mother, Joseph P., and Frank L. (he left three children of whom one, Edward, survives) all died in 1881; Amelia, Julius and Martin died young, and Adeline died October 8, 1909. August lives at home and Catherine is the wife of Michael Laffey, who for the past fourteen years has been associated with our subject in business. She is the mother of five children—Mary, Martha, Frank, Charles (deceased, and Claire. The father of our subject died in 1880 aged ninety-three years and five months.

Mr. Karst is a member of the Roman Catholic Church and has been a liberal contributor. He is affiliated with the Knights of Columbus and the Roman Catholic Benevolent Society. He has served as member of the town council and was trustee of the water works at the time the new water works system was built.

AUGUST NEUMAN, president of the Board of Infirmary Directors of Hancock County, Ohio, and member of the Agricultural Board of the county, was born February 13, 1856, in Mecklenberg, Germany, a son of John and Louisa Neuman.

August Neuman was fourteen years old when he journeyed to this country with his parents, who came at once to Hancock County, Ohio. The family lived a short time with Rudolph Neuman, an uncle of our subject's father, but later settled on a farm in Portage Township, where our subject grew to manhood. He worked as a farm hand until 1879 and after his marriage rented his father-in-law's farm in Pleasant Township until 1881. He then bought part of the farm, but later sold it back to his father-in-law, and purchased a farm of eighty-three acres in Portage Township, where he followed general farming until locating in Findlay, on March 24, 1910. He then sold the farm and bought a tract of 167 acres in Portage Township, just one mile east of the old farm. In the fall of 1908 Mr. Neuman was elected a member of the Infirmary Board on the Democratic ticket and assumed the responsibilities of that office January 4, 1909. At the first meeting of that body he was elected its president, and is now serving his second term as a member of the Board of Agriculture of Hancock County, having been elected a member of the same in 1908.

Mr. Neuman was first united in marriage with Sarah Brickman, who was born in Hancock County, Ohio, a daughter of Frederick Brickman, and of their union were born three children: Anna, who is the wife of E. W. Bonham, of Oklahoma, and has two children, Sara Janet, and Harold Neuman; J. Fred, who lives on our subject's farm in Portage Township, and married Bertice Moorehead; and Clara Elizabeth, living at home. Mrs. Neuman died in 1892 and he subsequently married Lucinda Collingwood, who died in 1895. He then married Angeline Montgomery, who was born in Portage Township, Hancock County, Ohio, and is a daughter of George and Dorothy Montgomery. Mr. Neuman is fraternally a member of the Maccabees, and has served as a member of the school board and as trustee of Portage Township.

George Montgomery was born in Wayne County, Ohio, October 11, 1823, and was the

only child born to John and Nancy (Helmick) Montgomery, the former being killed by a falling tree, when George was but one year old. George Montgomery was reared by his maternal grandfather, Nicholas Helmick, who came to Hancock County, Ohio, in 1832, and settled in Cass Township. His grandfather served in the War of 1812. Mr. Montgomery took up auctioneering and became one of the best known auctioneers in this part of the country. He also became a large land owner and at one time owned a tract of 1,400 acres. Mr. Montgomery was first married in 1844 to Mary Chase, a daughter of George Chase, who was one of the pioneers of Hancock County. She died in 1861, and he later married Dorothy A. Culp, who was the mother of Mrs. Neuman, and a daughter of Benoni Culp. Mr. Montgomery served as the first postmaster of Portage Center, which was the second postoffice opened in Hancock County. His death occurred in 1895.

ADAM RETTIG,* who is a general farmer in Jackson Township, Hancock County, Ohio, where he owns forty acres of land, was born in Van Buren Township, Hancock County, October 15, 1859. His parents were John and Katherine (Pifer) Rettig. Both were born in Germany and they came to America about sixty years ago, landing at New York and coming immediately to Hancock County, Ohio, where the father purchased land.

Adam Rettig grew to manhood on a farm and has carried on farming and stock raising ever since he grew old enough to use farm tools. He is a very practical, sensible man and thoroughly understands his business. Mr. Rettig was married March 6, 1886, to Miss Annie Appeld, a daughter of Fred and Paulina (Marolion) Appeld, and they have had six children: Charles, who died in infancy; Linda, who is married to August Clish and they live on a farm in Madison Township; Mary and Sherman, who reside at home and are attending school in Jackson Township; and Clara and Ernest, both of whom died when young. Mr. Rettig and wife are members of the German Lutheran church at Arlington. He has always voted the Democratic ticket.

JOHN MELVIN BYAL, one of the leading citizens of Pleasant Township, who has spent his entire life in Hancock County, belongs to an old pioneer family of Ohio. His farm of 120 acres is devoted to general agriculture and the raising of stock. He was born in Findlay Township, August 14, 1865, and is a son of Campbell and Anna (Pendleton) Byal.

The Byal family originated in Ireland. The grandfather, John Byal, settled in Findlay Township, Hancock County, near the site of the Infirmary and he built a mill west of Findlay. The father of John M. Byal followed farming in Findlay Township and died in 1881. The mother still survives and resides at Findlay. She was born in 1836 in Hancock County, a daughter of Joel and Amy Pendleton, both of whom died on their farm one and one-half miles west of Findlay. For forty years he was county surveyor of Hancock County. John M. Byal is the eldest of his parents' family of six children and the three other survivors are: Nora, who is the wife of W. E. Gorrell, of Findlay; and Clement and Leslie, both of whom reside in Findlay Township.

John M. Byal obtained his education in the public schools of Findlay Township, after which he engaged in farming and continued to

reside there until he was twenty-three years of age, when he moved to Blanchard Township. Mr. Byal was a resident of that township for twenty-two years and then came to his present farm. He has a very desirable and valuable property here in which he takes much interest, carefully cultivating his land and growing some very fine stock.

Mr. Byal was married to Miss Frances Cornwell, a daughter of D. J. and R. Cornwell, on March 29, 1888, and they have four children—Fern, Lester, Gladys and Frederick—all of whom reside at home. Mr. Byal and family are members of the United Brethren church. He is identified with Lodge No. 354, Odd Fellows. Nominally he is a Democrat, but in local elections he generally uses his own judgment about candidates, putting the man and his record before party.

THOMAS C. LINGER,* manager, and—in association with his father, P. F. Linger, of Clarksburg, West Virginia—owner of the Ohio Hay and Grain Company, at Findlay, Ohio, has been established in business in this city since February 1, 1904. He was born in Ritchie County, West Virginia, February 14, 1873, and is a son of P. F. and Susan E. Linger.

P. F. Linger is one of the old residents and substantial men of Ritchie County and he still continues to manage his farm there, together with a general store in which he has been also interested for some years, while he has additional interests at Clarksburg and at Findlay.

Thomas C. Linger was reared through his school period on the home farm and obtained his education in the country. He then decided to learn telegraphing and when fifteen years of age left the farm and as his brother was station agent at Parsons, West Virginia, he went there for instruction. As he was apt and reliable he later became an excellent operator, subsequently succeeding his brother there and still later being sent as operator to other points on the West Virginia Central Railroad. After four years of railroad work, Mr. Linger turned his attention in another direction and took a course in stenography and bookkeeping, at Parkersburg, West Virginia. In 1898 he went into the grain business, starting in with the Marietta Brokerage Company, of Marietta, Ohio, and after being with that firm for four years, going to Clarksburg, where he was manager of the branch house of the Ohio Hay and Grain Company, which is still continued. From there he came to Findlay. The Ohio Hay and Grain Company is a very large concern and has prospered from the start. In the spring of 1910 the company increased their Findlay facilities by erecting a grain elevator of about 100,000 bushels capacity. They handle hay, flour, and grain and employ ten people, while, during the summer seasons they have several hay pressers at work all over the country and during the busy seasons have from forty to fifty extra men on the pay roll.

Mr. Linger married Miss Alice Peters, of Louisa, Kentucky, and they have one child, Virginia. Mr. Linger is a member of the order of Knights of Pythias and belongs to the United Commercial Travelers' organization.

WILLIAM H. HOUCK, one of Findlay's most highly esteemed retired citizens, for many years engaged in farming and stock raising on his valuable estate consisting of 200 acres, which is situated in Jackson Township, Hancock County. Mr. Houck was born March 4, 1827, in Baltimore County, Maryland, just ten

years before his parents settled in the wilderness of Jackson Township. They were Jacob F. and Eve (Ebaugh) Houck.

For seventy-three years the Houck family has been identified with the interests of Hancock County, during this long period contributing in no small degree to its development along every line of progress. The father of Mr. Houck was a native of Maryland and his mother of Pennsylvania, both coming of the sturdy stock that ensured vigorous bodies and strong minds to their offspring. Of their ten children, eight grew to manhood and womanhood and five of this generation still survive. Jacob F. Houck was a representative man of his time and section, one who served his township in many responsible offices with efficiency and set an example to his neighbors in industry and public spirit. For many years he and wife were among the leading members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

William H. Houck, as the eldest of the family, had fewer advantages in education and earlier responsibilities than his brothers and sisters. He became his father's main dependence in clearing up the wilderness farm, which preceded the same kind of hard work for himself, Mr. Houck having the record of having cleared 200 acres of virgin soil in Hancock County. Since 1863 he has owned his present valuable farm in Jackson Township, one of the best improved and best stocked in this section of the county. He was one of the most enterprising agriculturists of his locality in his prime and owned the first buggy in his township and bought the first grass-cutter in Hancock County. In 1902 he came to Findlay to make his home with his youngest son, Willie E., his wife having died in September, 1899. At different times during his residence in Jackson Township, Mr. Houck responded to the wishes of his fellow citizens and served in township offices, but he has never been a seeker for political honors. In looking back over his long life he has the consciousness that as far as he has been able, he has lived usefully and there is nothing to mar his serene old age, but much to bring him comfort.

Mr. Houck was married in 1852 to Elizabeth Smaltz, a daughter of Henry Smaltz, of Hancock County, and to them were born the following children: Solomon F., Adam B., Catherine E., Annie M., Lottie A., John P., Jacob H., Robert C., Perry H., and Willie E. John P., residing at No. 205 West Hardin Street, Findlay, is connected with the T. & O. C. Railroad Company; Jacob H., resides at Rochester, Pa.; and Willie E., residing at No. 605 West Hardin Street, is general manager of the Boss Manufacturing Company. The latter married Miss Gail Grindle and they have two children. For more than a half a century, William H. Houck has been a class leader in the Methodist Episcopal church and a licensed exhorter for about the same time.

DR. J. R. TROVINGER,* one of the leading physicians of Arlington, Ohio, who has been engaged in the practice of his profession since 1889, was born May 17, 1864, in Perry County, Ohio, and is a son of Curtis and Mary (Neal) Trovinger.

Curtis Trovinger was a native of Maryland and came to Ohio with his father, John Trovinger, who settled in Fairfield County. He later removed to Perry County, where he followed farming until the time of his death. The mother of our subject also died in Perry County.

Dr. J. R. Trovinger grew to maturity in

Perry County, Ohio, and attended the local schools and the Thornville High School, from which he graduated in 1884. He then taught in the schools of Arkansas and Perry County for four years, and in 1887 entered the Columbus Medical College of Columbus, Ohio, from which he graduated with the class of 1889. He immediately embarked in the practice of medicine at Arlington, Ohio, where he has since been continuously and successfully engaged in his profession.

Dr. Trovinger is fraternally a member of the Maccabees, No. 179, of Arlington, of which he is past commander, and was for six years surgeon, and also affiliates with the I. O. O. F., No. 184, of Thornville, of which he is past grand commander; also of the Sons of Veterans, of which he was elected junior vice commander at Xenia, Ohio, on June 14, 1910. He was United States Pension Examiner under Presidents Cleveland and McKinley, and also served one term as Mayor of Arlington. Dr. Trovinger was united in marriage with Hettie Solt, who was born and reared in Eagle Township, Hancock County, Ohio, and they have always resided at Arlington.

EDMUND C. TAYLOR, president of the Commercial Banking & Savings Company, at Findlay, and also president of the Findlay Foundry & Machine Company, has been identified with the various interests of this city for more than twenty years. He is a native of Ohio, born September 2, 1851. He was liberally educated and after completing his course in Oberlin College, became intensely interested in the development of oil in the Pennsylvania oil fields, which was then attracting the attention of the world.

During the first eighteen months of his practical interest in this great industry, Mr. Taylor was located at Oil City and then went to the Butler County fields and for the six succeeding years took part in the activities of that section, learning during this time the stoicism necessary to bear the alternations of fortune arising from speculation. He acquired capital and in 1878 opened a nitro-glycerine factory at Bradford, using this explosive in the shooting of wells for prospectors. He was engaged in this work for seven years, when he became an oil producer, in 1881 locating at Richburg, N. Y., where he continued until 1886, and then came to Findlay. Mr. Taylor was connected with the first well drilled for oil in this section and is practically one of the pioneers in the industry here. He has never entirely given up his oil interests, having with them laid the foundation for his ample fortune, but his active participation in the industry has long since been abandoned, other important enterprises claiming his time and close attention. Since January, 1901, he has been at the head of the Commercial Banking & Savings Company, a leading financial institution of this section of Ohio. He owns a finely improved farm of 117 acres. Without being a politician, Mr. Taylor is an earnest Republican and a vigorous supporter of all measures looking to good government. He is charitable to a large degree and a willing promoter of public spirited enterprises whether for a special benevolent purpose or for the general welfare.

Mr. Taylor was married in 1889 to Mrs. Thirza (Ostermeyer) Moore, of Findlay, and their handsome residence stands at No. 222 Center Street, Findlay. Mr. Taylor is a 32nd degree Mason and belongs also to the Knights of Pythias and the Odd Fellows. Personally

he is genial and frank and counts his friends by the score.

OLIVER POWELL,* a retired farmer and highly respected citizen of Findlay, Ohio, residing in a very pleasant and attractive residence situated at No. 608 Center Street, came here from his farm in 1900 and has continued to live here for the past ten years. He is a valued member of the G. A. R. Post at Findlay, having served in this organization as chaplain and commander and gained admission to this body on account of his loyal service in the Civil War. Mr. Powell was born November 21, 1834, on a farm stuated in Liberty Township, Hancock County, Ohio, three miles southwest of Findlay, and is a son of Henry and Catherine (Fellers) Powell.

Henry Powell was born in Pennsylvania and lived there until after his marriage when he came to Fairfield County, Ohio, and in 1830 to Hancock County, where he entered land in Liberty Township. He developed an excellent farm and lived there until his death in 1876. He was married first to Catherine Fellers, who died in 1838, and secondly to Rebecca Myers.

Oliver Powell was reared on the farm in Liberty Township and attended the old log school that was not far distant from his home. He engaged in farming and in 1858 built a saw-mill and operated it until October 15, 1862, when he enlisted for service in the Civil War. He became a member of Company H, 10th O. Vol. Cav., and remained in the army until the close of the War of the Rebellion, a period of two years and eight months. With his comrades, Mr. Powell passed all through the Tennessee campaign, mainly doing scout duty, and afterward was under Sherman in the great march to the sea; he was present at the fall of Atlanta and participated in many of the most stirring events of that section. He did not escape all the dangers of war. When near Raleigh, North Carolina, his commander was surprised by a larger force and Corporal Powell, together with about 200 of his comrades, was taken prisoner. The whole party was marched to Richmond and for two days Corporal Powell had a realization of what Libby Prison was like. This was in the spring of 1865 when the Confederates were no longer anxious to keep their prisoners and within two days he was paroled and was given a furlough home by his commander for thirty days. At its end he reported at Columbus but just then an order came from the Government that all paroled prisoners should be mustered out and with this welcome news he was soon on his way home.

Mr. Powell was married on Christmas Day, 1868, to Miss Rachel Comer, who was born in Liberty Township, and died in 1900, at Findlay. Mr. and Mrs. Powell had six children: Blanche, who is a teacher in the McKee school at Findlay; Grace, who died aged one year; James Powell, who is an engineer on the Lake Shore Railroad and lives at Dunkirk, New York; Gertrude, who is the wife of Roy Flucke, of Findlay; Otto, who died aged two years; and Herbert, who died when seventeen years of age. Mr. Powell continued to live in Liberty Township until 1882 and then moved to his farm of eighty acres near Mt. Cory, which he sold prior to coming to Findlay in 1900. He has been identified with the Republican party almost since its organization but he has never been willing to accept public office. From his youth he has been a member of the Evangelical church. For years he has

been prominent in the Grand Army and is very well known in the organization.

BENJAMIN REDICK, whose valuable farm of 200 acres, lies in Eagle Township, Hancock County, twelve miles southwest of Findlay, Ohio, on what is known as the Redick road, has lived here for the past seventeen years. He was born in Van Buren Township, Hancock County, February 16, 1873, and is a son of Adam and Christina Redick.

Adam Redick and wife were both born in Germany. He was brought to America by his parents in boyhood and spent his subsequent life in Van Buren Township, Hancock County, Ohio, as a farmer, dying there in 1883. His wife was five years old when her parents brought her to the United States and she survives and resides with her son, Henry Redick, on the homestead in Van Buren Township.

Benjamin Redick remained at home and helped his father until he married, in 1893, when he settled on his present farm, the old Arras homestead. He carries on general farming and raises considerable stock, none of it thoroughbred but all profitably marketable. He has given much attention to improving the place, putting down a large amount of tile and building a modern and exceedingly comfortable farm residence, together with barns and other structures made necessary as his farm industries have been developed.

Mr. Redick was married September 21, 1893, to Miss Maggie Arras, who was born on the farm which has been her home all her life, December 27, 1875. Like her husband she was educated in the township shools. She is a daughter of Peter and Elizabeth Arras, who many years ago settled in Eagle Township where they became leading and respected people. Peter Arras died in 1897 but his widow survives and lives at Jenera, Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Redick have had five children, namely: Esther, Harley, Lulu Estella, Clarissa and William. Three times has the dread Angel of Death invaded this household. Lulu Estella died October 22, 1897, aged one month and two days. Clarissa died July 26, 1903; William died March 23, 1905. Mr. and Mrs. Redick are members of the German Lutheran church at Jenera.

M. C. SHAFER,* a prominent member of the Hancock County bar and a representative of one of the old pioneer German families of Ohio, was born at Findlay, Ohio, December 4, 1866, and is a son of Morgan D. and Mary L. (Buntz) Shafer.

The late Morgan D. Shafer was born in 1838, at Mt. Blanchard, Hancock County, Ohio, and was one of a family of twelve children born to his parents, Michael and Nancy (Ireland) Shafer, and a grandson of Michael Shafer, who, with a brother, came to America from Germany, and settled in Washington County, Pa. This first Michael Shafer married there and remained until his son Michael was about thirteen years of age, when he moved to Knox County, Ohio. The second Michael Shafer, who was the grandfather of M. C. Shafer of Findlay, was the pioneer of the family in Hancock County, where he acquired property and reared a large family. Throughout life he maintained his old ideas of German thrift and when his children grew old enough to desire more extended educational advantages than the local schools offered, they were required to provide themselves with the means, although at that time he was amply able to give them assistance. Thus, when Mor-

gan D. Shafer found the environments of the farm too narrow for his ambitions, he left home and taught school until he had earned enough to take a law course in the Ohio Wesleyan University, being admitted to the bar in 1860. In the following year, however, when the Civil War broke out, he put aside his personal plans and responded to the first call for troops, entering the Federal Army as first lieutenant of Company E, 21st O. Vol. Inf. After the end of his term of enlistment he came to Findlay and entered upon the practice of his profession, which he adorned for many years, his death occurring in 1899. He married Mary L. Buntz, who was born at Ellsworth, Mahoning County, Ohio, where her family was exceedingly prominent. She survives and resides with a daughter, Mrs. Dr. Jones, at Cleveland, Ohio.

M. C. Shafer was reared at Findlay and was graduated from the Findlay High School in the class of 1885. His father owned 600 acres of land in Hancock County and Mr. Shafer became interested for a time in farming and during one winter he taught a school in Marion Township. He then spent one year at Findlay College, after which he entered the University of Michigan, where he devoted two years to literary studies in general and two more to the special department of law, being graduated in 1893. Immediately after his return to Ohio and admission to the bar he established himself in his present convenient offices at No. 407½ Main Street, Findlay. Mr. Shafer's practice is general, requiring much knowledge along many lines, and he has earned a foremost place among a notable body of professional men.

Mr. Shafer was married at Findlay, in 1893, to Miss Florence Hamlin, a daughter of John M. Hamlin, and they have three children: Richard H., Mary C. and Douglas M. Mr. Shafer has club connections and fraternal affiliations and is particularly active in the Elks, the Knights of Pythias and the Modern Woodmen.

GEORGE W. NORRIS, a representative citizen of Cass Township, who, together with his wife, owns 250 acres of very valuable land, was born on his father's farm in Fairfield County, O., July 27, 1846, and is a son of Alexander and Maria (Stone) Norris.

Alexander Norris was born in Maryland, a son of English parents, and came to Fairfield County, O., when a young man of twenty-seven years, where he established himself as a shoemaker. He was married to his first wife there and after her death he married Maria Stone, who was born in Virginia. She died in 1892, aged eighty-one years and he survived until 1898, dying at the age of ninety years. To the first marriage four children were born, namely: William, deceased; Mary Frances, wife of Samuel Mosier, of Findlay; and Elizabeth Ann and Sara J., both deceased. Three children were born to the second marriage: George Whitfield, David L., and Anna, wife of H. Borroughf, of Pleasant Township. In 1852, Alexander Norris and family came to Hancock County, where he bought twenty acres in Marion Township, then added forty acres and then a second forty acres and still later, 120 acres, and devoted his later years to farming.

George W. Norris was a child when the family came to Hancock County and he grew to manhood on the home farm, which he helped to clear. He occasionally found a chance to attend school but not as frequently as he de-

sired, as his services were required at home. On December 21, 1870, he was married to Miss Amanda Baker, a daughter of Alexander and Catherine (Eckert) Baker, old residents of Cass Township. John H. Eckert came to Hancock County from Fairfield County and was the original owner of the farm of Mr. and Mrs. Norris, having made the entry. Mr. and Mrs. Norris have three children: John, who assists his father on the farm of ninety acres, lying in Section 34, on the township line; Belle, who is the wife of D. A. Thomas, who operats Mr. Norris' second farm, and they have three children—Gail, Bernard and Raymond; and George Dallas, who resides at Findlay, married Laura Belle Gibson, and they have one daughter, Pearl.

Mr. Norris has made farming his occupation and has prospered. Oil has been produced on one of his farms. He came to his present one on February 7, 1871 and has made many of the excellent improvements, including the erection of the brick residence which is commodious and attractive.

Mr. Norris has an admirable Civil War record. He enlisted on October 7, 1864, in Co. F, 47th O. Vol. Inf., under Capt. Brachman, and was mustered out in August, 1865. He saw hard service, being under Gen. Sherman in the memorable march to the sea and took part in many serious engagements including Fort McAllister and Bentonville. He was fortunate enough to escape injury and after his honorable discharge returned to Hancock County. He is a member of Stoker Post, No. 54, G. A. R., Findlay, and is also identified with the Odd Fellows there. In politics he is a Republican and for the past twelve years he has been township treasurer. With his wife he belongs to the Methodist Episcopal church.

JOHN H. HILTY,* one of Orange Township's representative business men, the senior partner in the firm of J. H. Hilty & Company, manufacturers of brick and tile, has his plant located on his farm in Section 36, where he owns sixty acres of excellent land. He was born in Richland Township, Allen County, O., March 2, 1848, and is a son of Christian and Madelina (Eicher) Hilty.

Christian Hilty was born at Berne, Switzerland. When he was four years old the family started for America but the mother died on the ocean and was buried at sea. His father continued his journey until he reached Wayne County, O., where Christian Kilty was reared. At the age of twenty-four years he married Madelina Eicher, who was born in Alsace, now a part of Germany, and came to America when eighteen years old. Six children were born to Christian Hilty and his wife, as follows: an infant that died unnamed; Benjamin, who is deceased; John H.; David, who lives in Orange Township; Katherine, now deceased, who was the wife of a Mr. Lugenbihl, of Allen County; and Christian. All the children were born in Richland Township, Allen County, where they settled after marriage, on a farm of eighty acres. There Christian Hilty died in 1872, his burial being in Allen County, three miles northwest of Bluffton. Both he and wife were members of the Swiss Mennonite church.

John H. Hilty was reared and attended school in Richland Township and remained on a farm near Bluffton, in Allen County, for three years following his marriage, when he came to Orange Township, Hancock County. At that time his present farm was practically uncleared. He was enterprising and industrious and soon recognized the fact that this section would prove an admirable location for

the brick and tile business. He started into the same at first in partnership with a brother-in-law, one and one-half miles west of his present location. Later he purchased the other interests and took his son into partnership under the firm name of J. H. Hilty & Son, which continued until 1908, when it became J. H. Hilty & Company and its members are: John H. Hilty, Christian Hilty and John Baumgardner. The business has prospered. Formerly about thirty kilns a year were burned but in the present season, up to date, the company has put out about one kiln a week. The product is building brick and tile, in size from three to fifteen inches. The quality of brick and tile compares favorably with that of older and better known plants and its future prospects are very bright.

Mr. Hilty was married in Allen County to Miss Mary Ann Thutt, a daughter of John Thutt, of Richland Township, and six children have been born to them, namely: Christian, who is a member of the above firm, married Minerva Gilbert; Rhoda; Reuben, who resides at Toledo, is a veterinary surgeon; Elmer, a resident of Hancock County, is a civil engineer; Clara, who is the wife of Edward Hansinger, of Martinsburg, Pa., and Elnora, who resides at home. Mr. Hilty and family are members of the Mennonite church. In politics he is a Democrat.

JOHN P. MOSIER, owner of 330 acres of valuable land comprising the old Mosier home farm in Sections 3 and 4, Marion Township, Hancock County, O., and 112 acres lying in Section 23, Cass Township, is numbered with the substantial men of this part of Hancock County. He was born March 24, 1843, in the old log house which his father erected on the farm after he had cleared a space for it, and is a son of Henry M. and Catherine (Davis) Mosier.

Henry M. Mosier was born in Virginia and remained there until reaching manhood when he went to Fairfield County, O., where he soon married Catherine Davis. They had three children: Samuel; Mary, wife of George Wolfe; and John P. After his first wife died he married Catherine Swab, who was born in Pennsylvania and died in February, 1883, at the age of sixty-nine years. They had one child, Cory E., who resides in Marion Township. Henry M. Mosier died in March, 1881, aged seventy-one years. When he came to Hancock County and secured land in Marion Township, it was heavily timbered and it required years of industry to clear and prepare the ground for cultivation. All this work he accomplished, with the assistance of his son, John P., when the latter grew old enough. By trade Henry M. Mosier was a carpenter and builder and numerous structures still standing in Fairfield County, attest his skill. Later he devoted his entire attention to his farm interests and stock raising became an important feature. He was known all over the county, enjoyed a large degree of confidence and frequently served in township offices although he was in no sense a politician.

John P. Mosier had such school advantages as the place and time afforded and he well remembers the old log schoolhouse with its slab seats. He began to help his father when quite young and continued closely associated with him and this interest made the elder desire that this son should remain on the farm. An amicable agreement was reached with the other heirs and Mr. Mosier has continued here. To the homestead he has added his other land as

it suited his convenience and he has three sets of buildings, all in good condition. In 1890 he erected his handsome frame residence, giving it a beautiful setting and showing taste in the laying out of the lawn and the placing of shade trees and ornamental shrubbery. In the month of roses one of the bushes in his yard is worth traveling miles to view and enjoy.

Mr. Mosier was married June 13, 1869, to Miss Maria F. Myers, a daughter of S. S. and Ann Myers, both of whom are deceased. Mrs. Mosier was born in Westmoreland County, Pa., May 17, 1845, and her death occurred in 1904. They had six children: Ida May, who died in 1902; Etta Virginia, who married William E. Huffman; William D., who died June 10, 1898; John H., who died June 10, 1897; Cletus L., who died April 26, 1900; and Mertie Blanche, who died September 19, 1903. Mr. and Mrs. Huffman reside with Mr. Mosier and Mr. Huffman operates the farm. He is a son of Norman Huffman. Mr. and Mrs. Huffman have four children: Frances E., Helen M., Donald J. and Pearl M. Mr. Mosier is a Republican and he served on the school board for many years. He has been a member of the Methodist Episcopal church since 1866.

EDWARD BATTLES*, a representative and substantial citizen of Orange Township, Hancock County, O., where he owns 230 acres of land, was born April 7, 1850, in the old log house that was then standing on his father's home farm, which adjoins his on the south. He is a son of Asa and Catherine (Raimers) Battles, and a grandson of Brier Battles.

Asa Battles was born in Pennsylvania, in 1815, and accompanied his father to Trumbull County, O. There he grew to manhood and when he possessed sufficient means, started out as a pioneer himself, purchasing 200 acres of virgin forest in the center of Orange Township, Hancock County. There he built his first log cabin and began the clearing and developing of this land to which he subsequently added until he owned 680 acres, enough to give each of his surviving sons a farm. He was a man of considerable local importance, recognizing his duties in the way of religion and good citizenship and during a long and worthy life retaining the respect of his fellow citizens. He married Catherine Raimers, who was born in Germany but who then lived with her parents in Allen County, O. To them the following children were born: John, Alfred, William, George, Edward, Eliza Jane, Asa, Jesse, Freeman, Robert and Harry. But few of these survive. The two eldest sons died in the army while serving as soldiers in the Civil War. Asa Battles, the father, died in November, 1904, and the mother followed in February, 1909. Their burial was in the Thompson cemetery. Both were valued members of the German Lutheran church.

Edward Battles obtained a district school education and then settled down to farming on the homestead. After his marriage he came to the present farm, next to the one on which he was born. It had not been improved but Mr. Battles erected the present residence, barns and outbuildings, tiled the land and in this way has added largely to its value. He carries on a general line of agriculture and is one of the township's prosperous and independent farmers.

In 1875 Mr. Battles was married to Miss Matilda Pipple, a daughter of William Pipple, of Orange Township, and they have five children: John F., who married Goldie Burns, and has two children—D. and Neva Catherine;

Fairy, who is the wife of Fred Beihl, and resides in Orange Township; Bertha, who married J. C. Wetheral and has one son, Robert; Lewis, who married Ida Kidd, who, at death, left one daughter, Helen; and Harley J. B., who assists his father. Mr. Battles is identified with the Democratic party.

WILLIAM F. SMITH, whose finely improved farm of 130 acres lies in Blanchard Township, Hancock County, Ohio, was born in Hancock County and is a son of Henry William and Albertina (Tagler) Smith.

Henry William Smith and wife were both born in Germany and when they came to America they located first in Hancock County, Ohio, near Fostoria, in Washington Township, where he purchased forty acres of land. This he subsequently sold and moved into Pleasant Township and then to Blanchard Township. During the Civil War he served as a soldier under the call for 100-day men. He died when aged seventy-four years and his wife at the age of sixty-seven years and their burial was at McComb. They were charter members of the Lutheran church at that place. He followed farming through his active years. To Henry William Smith and wife the following children were born: Sarah, who is the wife of George Bach, and resides at Belmore, Ohio; William F.; Louisa, who is the wife of M. C. Warren, of Blanchard Township; George H., who received the home farm and married Della Fry; John W., who married Nancy Fundum; Della, who is the wife of James Warren, of McComb; and Mary, who died in infancy.

After his school days were over, William F. Smith appplied himself to farming. On March 4, 1880, he was married to Miss Theodosia Fundum, a daughter of Henry J. and Katherine (Stone) Fundum, and they have had the following children: Anna Mary, Henry William, Frank Alford, Lulu Alverta, William Jay, and Clarence Ora. The last named died in infancy and was interred at McComb.

Henry J. Fundum, who was a well known resident of Blanchard Township for many years and one of its best citizens, was born in Germany. When he came first to America he settled in Pennsylvania and from there came to Seneca County, Ohio, where he married Katherine Stone, a native of his own birthplace. They settled near Fostoria and remained there until after the birth of two of their children, when they moved to the farm on which William F. Smith and family now live. With the assistance of his brothers, Henry J. Fundum bought this property and later, through purchase, became sole owner and cleared the larger part of it. Subsequently he purchased adjoining land until he owned 400 acres all in one block. This land he divided among his three daughters and their husbands and all of it is improved and well cultivated. Henry J. Fundum lived to be seventy-seven years of age and his wife to be sixty-seven. They were charter members of the Lutheran church at McComb. He was a Democrat in politics, and a member of the local grange. Three daughters were born to Henry J. Fundum and wife, namely: Theodosia, who is the wife of William F. Smith; Amanda, who is the wife of Lewis Brickman, a county commissioner of Hancock County; and Nancy A., who is the wife of John W. Smith. It is the pleasant privilege of all three sisters to live near together and thus to unite with each other in their joys and support each other in their sorrows.

After their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Smith

went to housekeeping on the present farm and here their children were all born. They are members of the Evangelical church in which he is an elder. In politics he is a Democrat and has served as township trustee for two years. He erected all the buildings on his farm, cleared a portion of it and did the draining.

CHARLES DENNIS,* who owns 242 acres of valuable land situated in Blanchard Township, Hancock County, O., was born in Eagle Township, Hancock County, February 2, 1865, and is a son of Samuel and Matilda (Alspath) Dennis.

Samuel Dennis was born in Pennsylvania and died at Rawson, O., at the age of eighty-two years, being buried in Benton Ridge cemetery. In early manhood he came to Fairfield County, O., where he married Matilda Alspath and engaged in farming there. Three sons were born to them in the same house in which Mrs. Dennis was born. They moved then to Hancock County and five more sons were born in Eagle Township, and one more in Blanchard Township. Samuel Dennis traded farms with John Smith and after he took possession of the Blanchard Township farm he built the present farm residence, which has needed but a small amount of repairing since. Samuel Dennis lived at McComb for two years and then moved to Rawson. He was a Democrat. After his death his widow came to make her home with her son Charles. She is a member of the Church of God, but her husband belonged to the Methodist denomination.

Charles Dennis went to school in Blanchard Township and then worked for his father until he was about twenty-two years of age, when he married and since then has operated the farm for himself. He is very successful in his undertakings and is one of the most enterprising and hard working farmers of this neighborhood.

Mr. Dennis married Miss Emma Ritter, a daughter of W. C. Ritter, and they have three children, Ethel, Leo and Herman. In politics he is nominally a Democrat but has independent leanings and very often exercises his own judgment only in casting his vote. For seven years he has served as a member of the township school board. He belongs to the order of Knights of Pythias, attending the lodge at Findlay.

HARVEY H. WELLS,* who, for fifty years has been a resident of Hancock County, O., owns a valuable farm of 120 acres which lies in Pleasant Township, which he devotes to general farming and stock raising. He was born in Licking County, O., and is a son of Noah and Edith (Warner) Wells.

Noah Wells was born in Arundel County, Md., a son of Richard Wells who came to Licking County, O., at an early date and died there. Noah Wells grew to manhood and married in Licking County and came from there to Hancock County during the War of the Rebellion and settled in Pleasant Township, on the Ridge road, one mile west of Deweyville. He purchased and improved forty acres of land. In later years he removed to Paulding County, O., where both he and wife died. Six sons and six daughters were born to Noah and Edith Wells, namely: Calvin, who served in the Civil War, enlisting at Newark, O., and died in the service from typhoid fever; Ann, who married Joseph Simmons in Licking County, moved first west of Deweyville and later to Missouri, where both died; David, who died of typhoid fever while serving as a soldier in the Civil

War; Mary, who married Rutherford Adams, and resides at Croton, Licking County; Millie, who married Bazil Sparling, of Hancock County, survives him and resides at Toledo; James, who resides at Benton Ridge; Amanda, who is the wife of Myron Moore, and resides in Henry County; Nelson, who resides in Putnam County; Harvey H.; Emma, who lives in Putnam County, is the widow of R. C. Dillon, who died in May, 1910; and two that died in infancy.

Harvey H. Wells attended the township schools as opportunity offered in his boyhood and then worked on the home farm until he married. For sixteen years afterward he worked as a farmer for Lewis Dukes, of Blanchard Township. He had no capital to begin with and every dollar he has invested he has earned by his own persevering industry. His first purchase of land was forty acres in Putnam County and later he bought 106 acres of Amelia Austin but sold over twenty-six of them and then continued to cultivate about eighty acres until in March, 1907, when he sold this land to advantage. He then purchased what was locally known as the Francis Hull farm, his present property. This land was originally entered by James Ewing in the early days of the county and it later passed into the hands of a Mr. Orrick who subsequently sold it to Francis Hull. Mr. Wells lost his house by fire in 1909 which necessitated the building of a new one. His fine barn is one of the best structures of its kind in the township.

In the spring of 1880, Mr. Wells was married to Miss Sidney Ellen Riggle, a daughter of John and Mary (Goodwin) Riggle, and they have three sons and one daughter, namely: Claud, who resides in Liberty Township and is a worker in the oil fields, married Pearl Smith and they have four children—Ralph, Orville, Evelyn and an infant; Lettie May, who is the wife of Roy Rader, of McComb, has two children—Dorothy and Catherine; and Clarence and Orie, both of whom give their father assistance on the farm. Mr. Wells and family are members of the Church of Christ at McComb. In politics he is a Republican but is no seeker after political rewards. He is one of the representative and worthy citizens of this section of Hancock County.

ELI ALEXANDER,* vice president of the Buckeye Ice and Coal Company, and foreman of the block department of the Findlay Clay Pot Company, has been a resident of Findlay, Ohio, since 1887. He was born December 15, 1862, on a farm in Richland County, Ohio, a son of George and Sarah (Hersch) Alexander. The father of our subject died in the fall of 1890 in Dickinson County, Kansas, where he located with his family in 1880. The mother is still living in Kansas.

Eli Alexander was reared on the home farm and in 1880 went with his parents to Kansas, where he learned the carpenter's trade. In 1887 he returned to Findlay, Ohio, where he worked for a time at his trade and in 1889 became a mold maker in the Findlay Clay Pot Company, with which he has since been identified. He is now one of the directors of that concern, and is foreman of the block department of same. For the past 14 years he has been identified with the Buckeye Ice and Coal Company, of which he is now vice president. Mr. Alexander is politically a Democrat, has served two years on the City Council, and was a member of the Board of Water Works at the time the new water system was installed. He is fraternally a member of the Masonic order.

C. L. CASTERLINE

Mr. Alexander was united in marriage with Elizabeth J. Stoker, a daughter of T. A. Stoker, who is a prominent farmer of Allen Township, Hancock County, Ohio. The following children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Alexander: Jennie, Eve, George, Ruth, Isabelle, Harold and Dora. The family reside at No. 2512 North Main Street.

CYRUS L. CASTERLINE,* vice president of the American National Bank at Findlay, Ohio, proprietor of the Bradford Oil Company and secretary and treasurer of the Genesee Oil Company, has been one of Findlay's enterprising and successful business men for a number of years. He was born in 1851, at Angelica, Alleghany County, New York.

Mr. Casterline was educated in his native place and first became identified with the oil industry when he went to the Bradford oil fields, in 1876. He became a partner of the late C. S. Carthell in the Bradford Oil Company and after Mr. Carthell's death purchased the business and has continued as its sole proprietor. As secretary and treasurer of the Genesee Oil Company, of Findlay, he occupies a prominent position in the commercial life of the city, while other business enterprises in which he is officially interested, have still further increased his influence. His worth as a progressive and public-spirited citizen has been recognized in many ways and he has served with efficiency in civic offices, especially as a member of the city board of improvements.

In politics, Mr. Casterline is a Republican, but his business interests have always been so large that he has found little time to entertain political aspirations. He has a very beautiful home on South Main Street, although a bachelor, and in his elegantly fitted apartments may be found many articles of more than usual interest, notably a collection of horns which is probably the most complete in the state and one pair, elaborately carved, would grace any museum. He is a 32nd degree Mason and a Shriner and belongs also to the Elks and the Knights of Pythias. He is a man of generous impulses and his donations to charity are large although very quietly made.

ALPHEUS HOFMASTER,* who is engaged in general farming on a tract of 100 acres in Section 24, Washington Township, Hancock County, Ohio, has been a life long resident of the county. He was born December 28, 1856, on the old Jacobs farm in Washington Township, and is a son of Jonas and Mary (Jacobs) Hofmaster.

John and Rachel (Eadler) Hofmaster, paternal grandparents of our subject, were natives of Germany and were among the early settlers of Mahoning County, Ohio. They subsequently came to Hancock County and located on what is now known as the William Earnest farm in Washington Township. Here they spent the remainder of their lives, his death occurring at the age of 91 years; his wife died at the age of 86 years. They were the parents of the following children: Paul, deceased; Catherine, deceased; Anna, deceased; Jonas, deceased; Rachel, deceased; Mary, who is the wife of Isaac Hooper; Ellen, deceased; Lydia; Jacob, deceased; Hannah; and three who died in infancy.

Jonas Hofmaster was born August 13, 1829, in Mahoning County, Ohio, and when a young man came to Hancock County with his parents, who settled on a tract of timberland in Washington Township. He was married to Mary Jacobs, who was born in Hancock County,

Ohio, and was a daughter of John and Margaret Jacobs, natives of Germany, who came to Hancock County in 1833 and entered land one mile north of our subject's place in Washington Township. After his marriage Jonas Hofmaster spent ten years on the old Jacobs farm, then bought 80 acres of land from Nick Jacobs, to which he later added 20 acres, the farm now being owned by our subject, Alpheus Hofmaster. The land was partly cleared and there was an old log house on the place, but it was later replaced by the house which is now on the farm. Jonas died on this farm January 2, 1904, and was survived by his widow until February 22, 1907, who was 73 years old at the time of her death. They were parents of the following children: Alpheus; Alice Elizabeth, deceased wife of Clarence Stewart of Michigan; Celestia, who married Dr. N. C. Miller of Fostoria, Ohio; Margaret, the wife of Miron Smith, of Fostoria; Ella, who died young; and two who died in infancy.

Alpheus Hofmaster was reared on his present farm, having been just a boy when his parents removed from the old Jacobs farm, where he was born. He attended the district schools of the township, but being the eldest child was obliged to devote considerable time to the farm work, and after his marriage, continued to live here, buying the farm from the Hofmaster heirs. He has remodeled the barn, erected milk-houses and otherwise made many improvements, and in connection with general farming is extensively engaged in shipping cream to Indiana.

Mr. Hofmaster was married November 22, 1887, to Jennie Brown, who is a daughter of Alexander and Mary (Pughe) Brown, the latter of whom is deceased, and they have two children: Harry, and Mary. Mr. Hofmaster is one of the public spirited and enterprising citizens of the township and in politics is identified with the Democratic party.

A. C. DICUS,* manager of the Farmers' Elevator and Exchange Company, at Mt. Cory, Hancock County, O., an enterprising and progressive business man, was born June 10, 1850, at Wabash, Ind., and is a son of Burgess and Hannah (Connell) Dicus. The father was born in Maryland, later moved to a farm in Fairfield County, O., and died at Defiance, in 1869, aged fifty-seven years. The mother was born and reared in Pennsylvania and died at Defiance, O., in 1884, aged seventy-two years.

A. C. Dicus was six years old when his parents moved to Illinois, where the family remained on a farm for ten years and then returned to Ohio and located at Defiance. In that city Mr. Dicus obtained a public school education. Following his marriage he established his home at Mt. Blanchard and five years since came to Rawson, where he has invested in property. The Farmers' Elevator and Exchange Company at Mt. Cory has become an enterprise of large importance to the farmers of this section. It was incorporated in 1907. The company deals in grain of all kinds, wool, coal, tile and flour. Mr. Dicus has the entire management of the business.

In 1883 Mr. Dicus was married to Miss L. A. Switzer, of Findlay, who was born and reared in Hancock County. They have four children: Glenn, who married Maud Huntward, of Benton Ridge; Anna, who married Grover Fox, of Rawson; S. E., and Harold.

HOMER L. TAYLOR,* who is engaged in general farming on a tract of 160 acres, located about one and a quarter miles east of Van

Buren in Allen Township, Hancock County, Ohio, was born October 24, 1861, on his farm on which he now lives, and is a son of Charles and Caroline (Fairchilds) Taylor.

Charles Taylor was born in Bedford County, Pa., and in early manhood came to Ohio, and worked at cabinet making in various places. After his marriage with Caroline Fairchilds, he resided several years in Van Buren, Hancock County, Ohio, but later settled on the farm in Allen Township, which our subject now owns. This he partly cleared and placed in a state of cultivation, and spent the remainder of his life here engaged in agricultural pursuits. The parents of our subject were the parents of twelve children, ten of whom are still living, our subject being the youngest of seven sons.

Homer L. Taylor was reared on his present farm, attended the local schools, and in early manhood learned carpentering, which he followed some years. In 1894 he purchased the home farm from the heirs, and has since carried on general farming and stock raising, and is one of the most prosperous farmers of Allen Township.

Mr. Taylor was married to Madge Showman, who was born and reared in Allen Township, and is a daughter of Pembroke B. and Caroline (Heller) Showman. Pembroke B. Showman was a native of Maryland, and in 1849, during the gold excitement, spent some time in California, but subsequently came to Hancock County, Ohio, where he had a brother living. Here he married Caroline Heller, who was born and reared in Hancock County, and spent the remainder of his life on a farm in Allen Township, where his death occurred in 1901. He is still survived by his widow. Six children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Taylor, namely: Charles Pembroke; Clyde LeRoy; Sarah Caroline, Edmund Showman; Donald William; and James M. The family holds membership with the Van Buren Presbyterian Church. Mr. Taylor is a director of the schools of District 6 of Allen Township.

CHARLES A. KELLEY,* owner of a valuable farm of eighty acres, situated in Section 3, Portage Township, Hancock County, O., eleven miles northwest of Findlay, was born in Gratiot County, Mich., August 17, 1869, and is a son of Alvin C. and Sarah A. (Patten) Kelley. When he was about three months old the family moved to Washington Township, Hancock County, O., where the father bought a farm. Later he retired to Bloomdale, in Wood County, where he still resides, his wife having died there in 1900.

Charles A. Kelley was the third in his parents' family of four children, the others being as follows: Edwin H., who died in Washington Township—was a farmer and a teacher and later engaged in the practice of law in the city of Cleveland; Lettie, who is the wife of A. E. Hale, of Findlay; and Louie, who is the wife of James F. Ernest. Mr. Kelley has been engaged in general farming ever since his school days. He came to his present place in 1898 and has made many improvements along sensible, practical lines and these have materially added to the value of his property.

Mr. Kelley married Miss Emma M. Hale, a daughter of Taylor and Zeruah Hale, of Wood County, O., and they have four children: Lynn H., Curtis E., Claire and Charles. They are being given many advantages and give promise of growing into admirable maturity. Mr. Kelley and family belong to the Methodist Episcopal church of North Baltimore, of which he is

a trustee. He is an enterprising and interested citizen of his township and has served on its school board.

H. J. RUTLEDGE,* manager of the Buckeye Ice and Coal Company, at Findlay, O., and a representative business man of this city, was born in Fairfield County, O., February 10, 1855, and is a son of Abraham and Nancy Ann (Hughes) Rutledge.

Abraham Rutledge was born in West Virginia and remained there until he reached manhood, when he came to Fairfield County and some years later to Putnam County, where he lived from 1858 until 1861. He then came to Hancock County and located on a farm in Union Township, where his death occurred, in 1873, at the age of sixty years. His burial was in the Clymer Cemetery, in that township. His widow survived until 1889, dying at Findlay. She was born, reared and educated in Fairfield County. Both were members of the United Brethren church and were worthy Christian people in every sense of the word.

H. J. Rutledge was four years old when his parents moved to Putnam County but he obtained the greater part of his schooling in Union Township, Hancock County. He was married first in 1885, to Miss Philena Altman, who died at Mt. Cory, in 1892, aged thirty-two years. Her parents were Jacob and Ellen Altman, and her father was a farmer in Union Township. Mr. Rutledge was married secondly to Miss Louise M. Storel, a daughter of Gotleib and Mary Storel, who were farming people in Hardin County, O. In 1892 Mr. Rutledge moved from Mt. Cory to Findlay, where he and his wife enjoy one of the finest homes in the city, located at No. 315 East Center Street. They are members of the First Methodist Episcopal church at Findlay. Mr. Rutledge has been manager of the Buckeye Ice and Coal Company since its incorporation in 1909.

DAVID EDSON PEPPLE,* whose valuable farm of 160 acres is situated in Section 23, Cass Township, Hancock County, O., is one of the representative business men of this section. He was born on his present farm, May 13, 1861, and is a son of John and Mary (Groner) Pepple and a grandson of Simon Pepple.

John Pepple grew to manhood in Columbiana County, O., a son of Simon Pepple, who was a native of Pennsylvania. In Columbiana County, John Pepple was married to Mary Groner, whose people had also come from Pennsylvania, and after the birth of their first child, John Pepple and wife moved to Hancock County, settling in the woods, their tract being now included in the present farm. The wife had inherited sixty-six acres from her father and later John Pepple added the remainder until the aggregate was 173 acres. Their first house was the usual pioneer affair, made of logs, but as the land became cleared and cultivated and grew profitable, a better one was erected and their last years were spent in great comfort. Her death occurred in 1891, at the age of sixty-six years, while his followed, in 1897, when he was aged seventy-eight years. They had the following children: Samuel, who lives in Minnesota; Reuben G., who lives in Michigan; Elias W., who lives in Cass Township; Lucinda E., deceased, who was the wife of E. Powell, of Hancock County; Simon, who is deceased; John W., who is also deceased; Mary Ellen, who is the wife of C. Sherman, of Hancock County; and David Edson.

David Edson Pepple may be said to have

CHARLES E. JORDAN

spent his whole life in Cass Township, the only time excepted being his twenty-first summer which he passed with a brother in the West. He attended the district schools and then turned his attention to agricultural pursuits, and later came into possession of the home farm through purchase. He carries on general farming and raises stock for his own use. He is a stockholder in and was one of the organizers of the Arcadia Bank and Savings Company, at Arcadia, O.

On September 1, 1887, Mr. Pepple was married to Miss Ella M. Burman, a daughter of Henry and Susan Burman, of Van Buren, O., and they have one son, Clyde E. This young man, who is a member of the class of 1911 at Delaware College, has made a fine record both for punctuality and scholarship ever since he began attending school. Mr. Pepple and family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church at Arcadia. He is identified with the Masons, the Odd Fellows, the Knights of Pythias and the D. O. K. K., belonging to organizations at Findlay, Toledo and Arcadia.

CHARLES E. JORDAN, president of The Findlay Courier Company of Findlay, Ohio, and vice president of the City Banking Company, is a representative member of the Findlay bar. He was born in Washington Township, Hancock County, Ohio, December 27, 1870, and is a son of John M. and Isabel (Redman) Jordan.

John M. Jordan was born on the old home farm in Washington Township, where he died in May, 1881. His father, Charles E. Jordan, an early settler, had come to this place from Belmont County, Ohio. John M. Jordan served as a soldier in the Civil War but survived its dangers and died many years afterward after years of peaceful pursuits. He married Isabel Redman, who was also born in Washington Township and died in August, 1881, on the home farm.

Charles E. Jordan, bearing his grandfather's name, was reared on the old family estate and from the country schools entered the Northwestern Ohio Normal University at Ada and after completing the literary course entered upon the study of law. He was graduated from the law department of the Cincinnati College, and was but twenty-two years of age when he was admitted to the bar, in 1893. For six years Mr. Jordan acceptably filled the difficult office of prosecuting attorney for Hancock County, being elected on the Democratic ticket in 1896, and since then has devoted himself to a private practice that is more or less absorbing.

Mr. Jordan was married to Miss Gail Dukes, a member of one of the old and prominent county families. They have one son, Richard D. The father of Mrs. Jordan was Eli Dukes, a prominent resident of Blanchard Township. Mr. Jordan served as clerk of the police court under Mayor Meehan's administration. He is a member of the Masons, the Knights of Pythias and the Elks.

JAMES O. LINE,* whose fine farm of 160 acres is situated in Eagle Township, Hancock County, Ohio, about seven miles south of Findlay and three-fourths of a mile west of the Bellefontaine road, in Section 24, has always resided on this place and was born here June 28, 1875. His parents were Elijah C. and Julia A. (Elsea) Line.

Elijah C. Line came with his wife to Eagle Township in their early married life and he was engaged in farming on this land through

all his active years. His death occurred here in 1887, his widow surviving until 1891.

James O. Line grew to manhood on the present farm and obtained his education in the local schools. From early youth he assisted his father and since coming into possession of the property he has made many substantial improvements. He carries on general farming and stock-raising and makes the growing of sheep a specialty. In the fall of 1897 he started to housekeeping on the present place, following his marriage, and his five children have been born here, their names being respectively: Everett, Leroy, Mervin, Thelma and Gerald. In the spring of 1908 Mr. Line began to enjoy the postal free delivery system. He is a well informed man and is particularly well posted along agricultural lines and as he makes a practical application of his knowledge he is very successful.

MARTIN L. WISELY,* secretary of the Buckeye Ice & Coal Company, successors to the Peoples' Ice & Coal Company of Findlay, Ohio, was born December 24, 1871, on a farm six miles east of Findlay, Ohio, and is a son of William P. and Catherine L. Wisely.

William P. Wisely, deceased, was formerly known throughout Hancock County as one of its most successful agriculturists, and was a son of Allen and Amelia (Bright) Wisely. His father was one of the first five settlers of the county, coming here in 1831 with a party of five pioneers and helping to survey the county when it was still in a state of primeval wilderness. Seeing that this region had a promising future, Allen Wisely invested in a large tract of land, and spent the remainder of his life in placing it in a state of cultivation. At the time of his death in 1888 he left a fine estate of three thousand acres, most of which had been improved by his long and arduous labors. He was the father of eight children, those surviving being as follows: Mrs. Sarah Davis, Mrs. America Glick, Loraine, and Daniel S. Wisely.

William P. Wisely, father of our subject, was trained to agricultural pursuits, and like his father became a successful farmer, leaving at the time of his death, in middle life, one of the finest landed estates in Hancock County. He was a member of the United Brethren church.

Martin L. Wisely was less than four years of age when his parents died and he was reared by his grandmother, who lived near Jackson, Mich. At the age of 16 he returned to Findlay, Ohio, where he entered college, but shortly after went to California for his health. He spent one year on a ranch there, sleeping out of doors every night and returned to Findlay greatly improved in health. He followed farming on the home place five years and in 1901, with his brother William P. Wisely, embarked in the ice and coal business at Findlay, the firm being known as the Peoples' Ice & Coal Company. October 1, 1909, the Buckeye Ice & Coal Company was organized and incorporated with a capital stock of $20,000, and the following officers elected, W. S. Parker, president, Eli Alexander, vice president, H. J. Rutledge, manager, M. L. Wisely, secretary and Charles E. Jordan, treasurer. The Buckeye Ice & Coal Company, whose offices are located at No. 329 North Cory Street, carry on a retail and wholesale business and employ from twelve to fifteen men. They also own at Riverside Park an ice-house which has a capacity of 10,000 tons.

Martin L. Wisely was joined in marriage witb Clara L. Adams, a daughter of Philip

Adams, and to them have been born two children: Charles M., and Bernice M. Mr. Wisely is politically a Republican and served four years—beginning in 1897—as trustee of Marion Township.

William P. Wisely, brother of our subject, was born September 5, 1873, and graduated with the class of 1891 from the Findlay College. He is one of the prominent and substantial business men of Findlay, and is fraternally identified with the Elks and the Masons, in the latter of which order he has attained the 32nd degree. He married Bessie B. McLeod, a daughter of the late Dr. Joseph R. McLeod, who was one of the oldest and best known physicians of Findlay.

ROBERT I. MACKEY,* a leading citizen of Pleasant Township, Hancock County, O., who carries on general farming on over 200 acres of land, including his own and other properties, is a member of one of the old and honorable county families. He was born in 1850, three miles west and one-half mile south of McComb, Hancock County, and is a son of William and Lavina (McVay) Mackey.

William Mackey was born in Jefferson County, O., where his father had settled when he came from Ireland. For many years he carried on farming in Hancock County, having moved to Pleasant Township in 1845. He was married in Pennsylvania to Lavina McVay, who was born in Highland County, O. Both died on the home farm many years later, the mother in 1902 and the father in 1909, the latter being in his eighty-fourth year. Their children were: Robert I.; Maggie, who is the widow of Frank Van Dyke; Maroa, who is the wife of Harland Stoker, of McComb; Frank, who is part owner of and lives on the home farm; Eliza, who resides at Buffalo; and Wallace, who lives at McComb, O. The parents of the above family were members of the Presbyterian church at McComb, the father being an elder in the same. He was a Republican in his political views.

Robert I. Mackey was reared on the home farm and obtained his early education in what was known as the Bail's schoolhouse, in Pleasant Township. His interests have been mainly agricultural and since 1872 he has resided on his present farm of fifty acres, near Deweyville, land which was formerly owned by his father but was purchased by Mr. Mackey in the above year. It is in a fine state of cultivation and with the exception of ten acres, was all cleared and ditched by Mr. Mackey since coming here. In addition to cultivating this property, he also operates a part of the Goudy farm, and also tracts for E. E. and Charles Ewing, aggregating more than 200 acres. He is an enterprising and progressive farmer and all this land is made to return generously for the care and attention bestowed on it.

Mr. Mackey was married in 1872, to Miss Elizabeth Mowery, of an old Pleasant Township family, and they have one daughter, Mary, who is the wife of Sumner Downing. Mr. Downing is a successful business man of Benton Ridge. They have one son, Marcus. Mr. Mackey is a Republican but has never sought any political preferment. He has always taken an active interest in the public schools, partly on account of his father's long connection with them, he having taught for thirty-three successive terms. Mr. Mackey is one of the oldest continuous residents of this part of Pleasant Township.

WILLIAM F. DUNCAN, judge of the court of common pleas of this district, was born at Cardington, Morrow County, Ohio, February 13, 1864, the eldest of seven children of Hon. Thomas E. and Rachel (Frew) Duncan. He was educated in the public schools of the county, graduating from the Mt. Gilead High School in 1883. As a school boy he spent his vacations working on the farm and upon leaving school took a place in his father's flouring mill for about eighteen months as the "all around" man where he learned the first ethics of business and something about machinery. He afterwards supplemented his education by a year each in Dennison and Ohio Wesleyan universities.

In 1886 he began the study of law with his father, Judge Thomas E. Duncan, at Mt. Gilead, and the next year entered the senior class of the Cincinnati Law School where he graduated in May, 1888, and was admitted to the bar, from which time he practiced with his father at Mt. Gilead to the first day of January, 1889, when he came to Findlay, his present home. Here he acquired some little reputation as a lawyer and a good clientage.

In 1890 he was elected city solicitor of his city and in 1892 reelected. In this office he proved himself capable and worthy and laid the foundation for future honors. In September, 1902, he was appointed by Governor Nash to fill out the unexpired term of about eight months on the common pleas bench of this district, caused by the resignation of Hon. J. W. Schaufelberger of Tiffin, which he did faithfully and well and returned to his law practice. In November, 1903, he was elected to another vacancy on this bench, caused by the death of Hon. Charles M. Melhorn of Kenton. The next year he was elected to a full term, which he is now serving. On the bench he has also "made good" and his administration of the office has given general satisfaction. At this writing he has been nominated and is a candidate for another term.

Judge Duncan in public as well as in private life, has proven honest, able and faithful and has treated all with courtesy and respect, and he, in turn, enjoys the confidence and respect of the bench and bar of his district and the people generally.

On May 5, 1891, Judge Duncan was married to Miss Elba Nile Ireland, daughter of Alexander and Mary Ireland, prosperous farmers of Morrow County, of Scotch-Irish descent, like the Duncans. They reside at 506 West Sanduskey street. Mrs. Duncan is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church and is active in its benevolent work. Judge Duncan is a Republican in politics and is identified with several leading fraternal societies.

COL. JAMES FINDLAY was born in Franklin County, Pennsylvania, in 1770. His parents were Samuel and Jane (Smith) Findlay, who reared a family of six sons—John, William, James, Jonathan, Thomas and Nathan—all of whom became prominent and distinguished men. In politics they were Democrats, and held office of distinction under that party, but in after years James became a Whig. He married Miss Jane Irwin, and about 1795 moved to Ohio, traveling on horseback by way of Virginia and Kentucky, and settling in Cincinnati, then a small village. Here for a number of years he filled the position of receiver of public moneys in the land office. In 1805-6 he served as mayor of Cincinnati, and again in 1810-11. When the War of 1812 broke out he was commissioned as

WILLIAM F. DUNCAN

colonel of a regiment, which was the advance guard of General William Hull's army on its march from the Scioto River to the Maumee. On this march he began the erection of Fort Findlay, named in his honor, and from which the city of Findlay derives its name. For meritorious conduct in the War of 1812 Colonel Findlay was afterwards promoted to the rank of brigadier-general of the state militia, in which capacity he served for a considerable period. Colonel Findlay was the member of congress from Hamilton County from 1825 to 1833. In 1834 he was the Whig and Anti-Masonic candidate for governor of Ohio, but was defeated by Robert Lucas, and died in the following year. Naturally reserved in his manner, he presented to strangers an air of austerity; but to those who knew him he was the soul of kindness and geniality. Colonel Findlay possessed great decision of character, was just in all his dealings, and maintained through life an unsullied reputation.

JACOB H. BOGER, D. D. S., who is a leading practitioner of dentistry and a prominent citizen of Findlay, Ohio, having served as postmaster, was born in Harrisburg, Penn., June 27, 1859, a son of John A. and Mary A. (Kuhnle) Boger. His parents were both of German stock, though John A. Boger, the father, was born in Pennsylvania and now resides in the city of Philadelphia, where he is well known as one of the local leaders of the Republican party and holds a responsible position in the comptroller's office. He has been a resident of that city since about 1869. He and his wife reared a family of seven children, of whom there are now six survivors. His wife's grandfather on the maternal side, Samuel Skeen, was a lieutenant in the Philadelphia County (Penn.) militia in the early days.

The subject of this sketch, Jacob Henry Boger, began his literary education in the schools of his native city, and afterward continued it in those of Philadelphia, to which place he accompanied his parents at the age of ten years. In 1877 he began the study of dentistry in the office of Dr. J. F. Fryer, of Pottstown, Penn., a very skilful practitioner. Under Dr. Fryer's direction he familiarized himself with all the various methods of dental science, in both the operative and laboratory departments, after which, in order to obtain the most thorough preparation for the practice of his chosen profession, he matriculated at the Pennsylvania College of Dental Surgery, Philadelphia, where he was graduated in 1880 with the degree of Doctor of Dental Surgery and with class honors.

Beginning the practice of dentistry in Findlay in March of the same year, he has since continued his professional labors in this city, having gained a high reputation for skilful and conscientious work. His office in the Adams Building, Main Street, is equipped with the most approved mechanical appliances made use of in his profession and he enjoys a large and select patronage.

Dr. Boger has also been quite active in promoting the growth and development of his adopted city, dealing extensively in real estate, which he has found a profitable source of income.

The Doctor is a stanch supporter of the Republican party and for a number of years has been quite active in county politics, having rendered valuable services to his party. He was formerly for seven consecutive years a member of the Board of Election Supervisors of Han-

cock County, rendering very efficient service in that capacity. In 1884 he was elected to the office of city clerk of Findlay, which he filled capably for four years. In 1887 he assisted in the formation of the National League of Republican Clubs at New York City. Four years he was a delegate to the State Convention when Major William McKinley was nominated by acclamation and he afterwards strongly supported that distinguished statesman for the presidency. In 1898 he was chairman of the Congressional Committee of the Eighth District, having previously served as a member of the Executive Committee of Ohio from Hancock County.

Dr. Boger's exertions on behalf of his party were acknowledged by his appointment, June 22, 1898, by Pres. McKinley, to the office of postmaster of Findlay, which met with the general approval of the citizens. He subsequently justified the selection by the able manner in which he administered the affairs of the office. His administration was continued through two terms, as he was reappointed by President Roosevelt, June 27, 1902.

Dr. Boger is a prominent Free Mason, having attained the thirty-second degree of the Scottish Rite and being also a noble of the Mystic Shrine. He is past eminent commander of Findlay Commandery, No. 49, Knights Templar. He is also a member of the Royal Arcanum and the Knights of Pythias. His professional associations include membership in the Ohio State Dental Association, the Dentists' Protective Association, and President Hancock County Dental Society.

Dr. Boger was married, on December 6, 1882, to Miss Jennie Mungen, a daughter of Hon. William Mungen, who was the only Democratic representative ever sent from Hancock County to Congress, and who was one of the most esteemed residents of Findlay. Dr. and Mrs. Boger are the parents of one child, Corinne. The family residence is at No. 1131 S. Main Street.

It will be seen, even from this brief sketch, that its subject is one who may well be classed among the leading and representative citizens of Hancock County—representative of Twentieth Century progress and initiative. Most professional men are content to attain a respectable standing in their profession and remain simple doctors or lawyers throughout their entire individual careers, but Dr. Boger, in seeking an outlet for his superfluous energy, has demonstrated that it is possible to render high service and gather honors on more than one field of activity, and that without losing ground in any direction or neglecting any personal duties. As the Doctor has hardly yet passed the meridian of life, it is but fair to assume that the future has in store for him still greater successes than those he has already achieved, for he is not one of those who can rest on their oars and carelessly drift down life's stream to the great ocean of Futurity, but one, rather, who seizing the oars in vigorous grasp propels his stout craft firmly and swiftly towards a definite goal—the harbor of Worthy Ambitions Honorably Attained.

ELIJAH P. JONES, formerly president of the First National Bank at Findlay, O., of which he was one of the incorporators, for many years was prominently identified with Findlay enterprises, having settled in this town after years of business success in other places. He was born at Rochester, N. Y., in the year 1820, and died in his beautiful home at Findlay, July 19, 1894, being laid to rest

in the peaceful quiet of Maple Grove Cemetery.

Mr. Jones came of New England ancestry and was of Revolutionary stock. His father, Elijah Jones, was a native of Connecticut, who removed to Pennsylvania for a time and was there interested in the lumber business. Later, however, the elder Jones located at Rochester, N. Y., where he was engaged in mercantile and other lines of business activity. In 1820—the year of the birth of our subject—he removed to Lake County, Ohio, and there in all probability his busy life closed.

Elijah P. Jones was evidently a youth of quick intelligence, for he was teaching a district school when only sixteen years of age. At the age of eighteen he accepted a position as clerk in the Cleveland post office, where he remained for three years, after which he attended Norwalk Academy, completing the course. For one year thereafter he served as agent of what was then the Sandusky and Mansfield Railroad (now a part of the Baltimore & Ohio system), and later he was agent for the Mad River & Lake Erie Line, now the Cleveland, Cincinnati, Chicago & St. Louis Railroad. The discovery of gold in California at this time greatly stimulated railroad construction, and when the Carey & Findlay Railroad was completed, Mr. Jones leased the same for two and a half years, renewing the lease on its expiration, and operating the line for about eight years.

In 1852, with his brother, George Jones, and E. N. Cook, he went to Salem, Oregon—a move evincing characteristic business foresight—and for four years the partners did a large and prosperous business in general merchandising. In the end, however, the scheme failed, but from no want of judgment in its originators. The Indians suddenly became hostile in the west and the troops quickly gathered to subdue them, not being provided with stores, seized whatever necessary supplies they could lay hold of, this entailing a loss upon Mr. Jones and his firm of some $60,000.

Dissolving partnership in 1857, Mr. Jones returned east, and became first a broker and then a banker, conducting business in New York City and later at Findlay, to which city he came in 1859, When the First National Bank of Findlay was organized, in 1863, he became its president and subsequently continued in that office until his death. He became a man of very large estate, acquiring property in various localities and ably managing his many affairs to the end of his active life. Of varied experience and possessing an enlightened mind, he was well qualified for the political arena, had his ambition led him in that direction. His vote was cast with the Republican party, after its formation. In religious faith he was a Presbyterian. His charities were many, and the results of his benevolence have done much to relieve human suffering in Findlay to which city he was very loyal after making it his home.

Mr. Jones was married January 15, 1861, to Miss Mellie E. Johnston, a daughter of John S., and a granddaughter of William Johnston, her family being an old and prominent one of Piqua, Ohio. She was graduated from the Wesleyan Seminary at Delaware, Ohio, in 1860. Three children were born of this marriage, namely: Cornelia Frances, Mary Gertrude, and George Pelton. Both daughters are now deceased, Cornelia Frances passing away in 1903 and Mary Gertrude in 1891. The latter was the wife of William T. Ward. Both were ladies of high social standing in Findlay

and both were graduates of Vassar College. Mrs. Jones still occupies her beautiful home, which is situated at No. 313 So. Sandusky Street.

WILLIS M. METZLER, M. D., who has been engaged in the practice of medicine at Vanlue, Hancock County, O., for the past fourteen years and is professionally valued all through this section, was born in Liberty Township, Hancock County, September 21, 1866, and is a son of Henry H. and Caroline (Reed) Metzler.

Henry H. Metzler was born in Columbiana County, O., a son of Jacob Metzler, who was a native of Pennsylvania. In 1850, Henry H. Metzler moved to Hancock County. His father Jacob bought a farm in Liberty Township on which he resided until 1865. Henry H. Metzler died in 1892, at the age of fifty-one years. He married Caroline Reed, a native of Hancock County, who died in 1899, aged fifty-seven years. To them were born the following children: Willis M., J. Reed, Harriet, Samuel, Blanche, Mary and Bessie.

Willis M. Metzler attended the township schools in boyhood and later the Findlay schools and graduated from the Findlay High School before entering upon the study of medicine, with a Findlay physician. He also officiated for a time as a clerk in the Findlay post office. After a year of preparation he entered Starling Medical College, at Columbus, where he was graduated in 1895, and in the following year opened his office at Vanlue and enjoys a large and substantial practice. He is identified with the leading medical organizations, including the Hancock County, the Ohio State and the American Medical Associations.

In 1902 Dr. Metzler was married to Miss Lola Cross, of Amanda Township, Hancock County. They are members of the United Brethren church. Dr. Metzler has been a very active and useful citizen. He served one term as township treasurer, one term as town treasurer, and is village treasurer and treasurer of the school board at present. In his political views he is a Republican and fraternally he is a Mason and K. P.

DARIUS W. YATES, who is a general farmer in Jackson Township, Hancock County, Ohio, where he owns sixty-eight acres of fine land, was born in Jackson Township, May 11, 1886, and is a son of Newton and Samantha (Cooper) Yates.

Newton Yates was born in Hancock County, to which his father came at an early day, and for many years he has resided in Jackson Township and carried on farming and stock raising. His wife was also born in this county, her people being pioneers here.

Darius W. Yates was educated in the public schools of Jackson Township and had some excellent teachers. He was brought up to farm pursuits and in 1909 purchased his present property from John S. Bishop. He has a clear title and the owners can be traced backward from Mr. Bishop to Melvin Duke, to Adam Fulhart, to James Thomas and to Thomas Williamson, who entered the land. Although Mr. Yates is still a young man he has demonstrated his ability as a farmer and has the good health, energy and progressive ideas that will contribute much to his future success. He has three sisters, all older than himself, namely: Daisy May, who married Hally Treece and they live in Jackson Township; Gale, who married James Elsea, lives at Findlay; and Edith, who married William

Snyder, and has her home in Jackson Township.

On September 29, 1907, Mr. Yates was married to Miss Carrie A. Bishop, who was born August 26, 1883, and is a daughter of John and Angeline (Woodruff) Bishop. The father of Mrs. Yates died January 23, 1909, in Eagle Township, but the mother still resides on the homestead there. Mrs. Yates was one of a family of three children: Charles, who died at the age of two years; Sadie, who married Henry Hartman of Eagle Township; and Carrie A., who is Mrs. Yates. Mr. Yates belongs to the Republican party.

JOSEPH R. McLEOD, M. D.,* who has been successfully engaged in general practice at Findlay, Ohio, for a period covering twenty useful years, was born in 1833, in Delaware County, Ohio, and is a son of John and a grandson of Capt. John McLeod.

The grandfather of Dr. McLeod was of Scotch parentage but his birth took place in England, in 1780. He came to America and settled in the city of Philadelphia, and during the War of 1812, he served as an officer, thereby gaining his military title. His home remained in Philadelphia and there his son, John McLeod, was born in 1809. Prior to the birth of his son, Joseph R., the second John McLeod settled in Delaware County, Ohio, in 1865 removing to Missouri, where he died in 1898.

The parents of Dr. McLeod moved from Delaware to Hancock County, in his infancy, and there he completed his earlier school attendance, later enjoying some advantages at the Ohio Wesleyan University at Delaware. That he was a youth of more than ordinary mental equipment is proved by his success in three professions, teaching, the law and medicine. When a boy of seventeen years, managing his first school, he began to read medicine and also to study the principles of law, and in 1863 he was admitted to the bar, after graduating from the law department of the Cincinnati College. It was with the intention of making law his life profession that he then settled at Findlay and opened an office. In the following year he enlisted for service in the Civil War, becoming a corporal in Company I, 161st O. Vol. Inf., and serving four months. After his honorable discharge he went to Missouri, where his parents had located, and engaged in the practice of law at Shelbyville, until 1876, when failing health made him turn his attention to another professional field. In 1877 he was graduated in medicine from the College of Physicians and Surgeons, of Keokuk, Iowa, and settled first at Mt. Cory, in Hancock County, Ohio. He remained in active practice there for three years and later practiced at Benton Ridge for eight more years, coming then to Findlay, where his skill and medical knowledge have been abundantly recognized. In every section in which Dr. McLeod made his home he has impressed his personality upon the people. During six years of his residence at Shelbyville, Missouri, he filled the office of presiding judge of the county court and had many other substantial proofs of the appreciation of his fellow citizens.

In 1862 Dr. McLeod was married to Miss Mary E. Howard, who is a member of an old Findlay family, and three of their children survive: Charles D., who is engaged in the practice of medicine at Chatfield, Ohio; Samuel Howard, who is a resident of Findlay; and Bessie B., who married William P. Wisely. Dr. McLeod's place of residence is at No. 1112

North Main Street, Findlay. He is a Mason and an Odd Fellow.

RALPH W. MOORE, cashier of the Buckeye National Bank, of Findlay, and a prominent and successful business man of that city, was born in Big Lick Township, Hancock County, Ohio, May 12, 1863, on the farm then owned by his father, Ross W. Moore, in Section 17, where the old log cabin is still standing. Mr. Moore spent his early days with his father, mother and brother on the farm until he began teaching school in his home district, where he taught seven terms in succession. While thus engaged at home during the winters he served as deputy county auditor under W. T. Platt during the summer time and afterwards under Auditor C. B. Metcalf, serving nearly eleven years in this office. At tax paying time he assisted in the county treasurer's office at times. In the spring of 1897 Wilson J. Edwards resigned his position as assistant cashier of the Farmers National Bank of Findlay, Ohio, and Mr. Moore was elected to fill the vacancy, which position he filled until the resignation of Mr. J. G. Hull as cashier, when he was elected to fill this new vacancy, holding the position until the reorganization of the bank, January 28, 1904. The old Farmers National Bank was then merged into the Buckeye National Bank and Mr. Moore elected its cashier and is still filling this position. Besides being interested in the banking business, he is a director and stockholder in the Buckeye Traction Ditcher Company, the Buckeye Ice & Coal Company and the Buckeye Hardware Company of Findlay, Ohio; The Buckeye Land & Development Company of Ft. Collins, Colorado, and the Roanoke Land & Development Company of Roanoke, Louisiana.

Mr. Moore is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church known as Webster Chapel in Big Lick Township, having united with it in early manhood and retaining his membership there. On Christmas Day, 1893, he was united in marriage with Aura M. Ulsh, one of the public school teachers of Findlay at that time, and formerly a resident of Mr. Moore's home township. From this union five children have been born: Ralph W. Moore, Jr., Ethel L. Moore, Helen G. Moore, one that died in infancy, and Alice Loreen Moore. Mr. Moore's mother resides with him at the present time in their new home on South Main Street, where he is always glad to meet his neighbors and friends.

JOHN A. NUSSER,* a much esteemed general farmer and breeder of fancy poultry, is a member of the Hancock County Fair Board, and resides on a farm of eighty acres located about one and three-quarter miles east of Van Buren, Ohio. He was born November 14, 1873, on a farm in Allen Township, Hancock County, Ohio, and is a son of John and Mary (Taylor) Nusser. The family is of German extraction, the paternal grandfather having been a native of that country. The father of our subject was born in Findlay, Ohio, where he was reared and still lives, and the mother, who died in 1893, was a daughter of Charles Taylor, and was born and reared in Allen Township, Hancock County, Ohio.

John A. Nusser was reared on what is now known as the H. L. Taylor farm, which adjoins our subject's farm on the north, and during his boyhood worked for a time in a store at Van Buren, Ohio. He has always followed farming and has resided on his present farm since 1903. Here he carries on general farming, making a specialty of raising Hereford

RALPH W. MOORE

cattle, and is a breeder of about thirty kinds of fancy poultry. His poultry has won many prizes at various fairs and poultry exhibits of this locality, and Mr. Nusser has been a member of the Hancock County Fair board since 1905. He was elected a member of the Allen Township school board in 1909.

Mr. Nusser was married to Blanche Swab, who is a daughter of Samuel Swab, a prominent farmer of Cass Township, Hancock County, Ohio, and they have one daughter, Dorothy E. Nusser.

H. J. POWELL, M. D.,* who is successfully engaged in the practice of medicine at Rawson, Ohio, is a native of Hancock County, born in Eagle Township, August 9, 1870. His parents are Irvin and Lucinda (Evans) Powell, the former of whom was born in Fairfield County and the latter in Hancock County. They reside on their farm in Eagle Township.

H. J. Powell was reared in Eagle Township and attended school there in boyhood and later was a student in the Findlay schools. He afterwards engaged in teaching, for fifteen years following this profession at North Baltimore, in Wood County, and during nine years being principal of the public schools there. For his educational work he was well prepared, having previously graduated from Angola College, at Angola, Ind., and in 1904, from Findlay College, at Findlay, Ohio. From North Baltimore he entered the Western Reserve College and was graduated with his medical degree in 1908 and took a post-graduate course and received the degree of A. M., in 1909. He located for practice at Rawson, in 1908, and has identified himself thoroughly with the interests of this town. He is serving as a member of the city council, having been elected on the Democratic ticket.

In 1894 Dr. Powell was married to Miss Lena Roberts, a daughter of Henry Roberts, of North Baltimore, Ohio, and they have three children: Rose, Doris and Maxine. Dr. Powell and family are members of the United Brethren Church at Rawson. For twenty years he has been a member of the order of Maccabees and is medical examiner for the Rawson lodge, and since 1908 he has also been identified with the Odd Fellows.

ANDREW G. FULLER, a leading lawyer of the Hancock County bar, and a prominent citizen of Findlay, Ohio, was born in Barry County, Michigan, March 5, 1858. His parents were Geo. S. and Mercy A. (Hill) Fuller. Both were pioneers in Michigan when ox-teams were the generally recognized mode of travel. His father was of New England lineage, but a native of New York; his mother of English and German descent and Canadian birth. During Mr. Fuller's infancy his parents moved to Allegan, Michigan, and later, when he was about six years old, to Kalamazoo, Michigan, at which place he was reared through childhood and youth.

Mr. Fuller received a common school education in the public schools of Kalamazoo, and at that place attended and graduated from Kalamazoo College, completing his collegiate course in 1883, receiving the degree Ph.B., and having later the degree of Ph.M. conferred for post-graduate work. Immediately following his graduation in 1883 he received the appointment of assistant city engineer in the city of Kalamazoo, which position after about two years he resigned to take up the study of law as a profession. He was ad-

mitted to practice as a member of the bar of Michigan in September, 1885, by the Circuit Court of Kalamazoo County, with the distinction of having covered the then ordinary two-year course of reading required by the university curriculum in seven months. Following his admission to the bar, Mr. Fuller engaged in active practice of his profession at Cadillac, Mich., where he held for one year the office of city attorney, and for one year that of county superintendent of schools in Wexford County. In August of 1889, drawn by the then growing fame of Findlay as the center of the oil and gas belt of Ohio, he removed to that city, becoming at the time a member of the law firm of Barber and Fuller, which continued until 1896, since which time Mr. Fuller has continued his professional work as the successor of this firm, Mr. Barber having removed to Toledo.

Since taking up his residence in Findlay, Mr. Fuller has been thoroughly identified with the interests of the city as a property owner and citizen, taking part in its movements for civic advancement, and serving it as a member of its Board of Health for many years, and holding the office of local registrar of vital statistics. Professionally he has been interested in and taken part in very many of the cases of large importance that have passed throught the courts in his own and adjoining counties.

He has been for many years prominent as an Odd Fellow, both among local lodge circles, and in the State, having been representative in the Grand Lodge of Ohio I. O. O. F.

Mr. Fuller was married, October 12, 1887, to Miss Mary A. Peck, of West Bloomfield, N. Y., to which union have been born eight children, of whom seven are living, being in the order of their birth, Henry C., Raymond M., Margaret A., Robert E., Edith N., Frances F. and Ruth E. All were born at Findlay except the oldest son, whose birthplace was at Cadillac.

3

2090